

THE BIG ISSUE

EVERY MONDAY
A HAND UP NOT A HANDOUT

£3
BUMPER
EDITION
GET CHRISTMAS
READY

THE JOY OF
**CHOPPING
WOOD**



STRICTLY
SPEAKING, IT'S
**PETER
ANDRE**

**LET
IT
SNOW**

WILL THERE EVER BE A
WHITE CHRISTMAS AGAIN?

**GEORGE
CLOONEY**

BUYS A SANDWICH
BACKS BIG ISSUE



THE GREAT
MINION GIVEAWAY
PLUS £800 OF BOX-SETS **PAGE 42**

RA

Final weeks



The Guardian



The Telegraph



The Times



Royal Academy of Arts

Ai Weiwei

Late night
tickets released

Book now roy.ac/aww

Until 13 December
#AiWeiwei
Friends of the RA go free

Supported by

DAVID MORRIS
THE LONDON JEWELLER

Supported by

LISSON GALLERY

CONTENTS

EST. 1991



NOVEMBER 16-22 2015
NO. 1180

REGULARS

CORRESPONDENCE **4**

EDITOR & PAUSE **6**

HIDDEN BRITAIN &
MY PECCADILLO **9**

Richie Campbell on Eddie Murphy

LETTER TO MY
YOUNGER SELF **10**

Peter Andre

JOHN BIRD **13**

COMMENT **15**

Victoria Anderson

STREET ART **17**

ECONOMICS **19**

LET IT SNOW **22**

THE CALAIS JUNGLE **28**

RICK CLEMENT'S JOURNEY **32**

MAN'S BEST FRIEND **35**



**THE ENLIGHTENMENT
BOOKS 38**

FILM 41

FOCUS & GEEK 43

LUCY SWEET,

EVENTS & MUSIC 44

SPOT THE BALL 52

NEXT WEEK

**GORDON'S
ALIVE?!**

**IT'S
BRIAN
BLESSED!**

ON SALE
NOVEMBER 23

Hello, my name is Kelvin.

The Big Issue is a lifeline. It helped me get focused and I'm getting back on my feet now after a tough time. I'd like to get a guitar again – music was always my passion. I used to play in bands but I had to sell my Les Paul when I became homeless. It was my pride and joy. So I'd like to get back to playing the guitar and keep working. Read more on page 54.



OUR MANIFESTO

● WE BELIEVE

**in a hand up,
not a handout...**

Which is why our sellers BUY every copy of the magazine from us for £1.50 and sell it on to you for £3. In this way we have helped hundreds of thousands of people to take control of their lives since 1991, and in the process created a global blueprint for social change.

● WE BELIEVE

in trade, not aid...

Which is why we ask that you ALWAYS take your copy of the magazine – it's a bloody good read and our sellers are working and need your custom.

● WE BELIEVE

poverty is indiscriminate...

Which is why we provide ANYONE whose life is blighted by poverty with the opportunity to earn a LEGITIMATE income.

● WE BELIEVE

in the right to citizenship...

Which is why The Big Issue Foundation, our charitable arm, helps sellers tackle their social and financial exclusion.

● WE BELIEVE

in prevention...

Which is why Big Issue Invest offers backing and investments between £50,000–£1.75m to social enterprises, charities and businesses which deliver social value to communities.



Photo: Jake Morley



CORRESPONDENCE

Saving your bacon

Re: Brendan O'Neill, November 2-8. Does the 'scaremongering' lobby you refer to include us hardworking doctors? Next time you run for help after a health scare, remember the reason we bang on about obesity and eating rubbish is that our lives are spent largely treating lifestyle diseases in this country. That is utterly depressing for medics and should be for you too as an intelligent human being.

You want to be 'left alone'? Does that mean you want to be left alone to deal with your health problems? I doubt it. You can't have your cake (or bacon) and eat it... oh sorry, that's exactly what you want.

Kids in rural India are going blind because of vitamin A deficiency in the only diet they can afford but you whinge that 'sadly there are those who want to make us carnivores feel bad'. Give us a break. You live in a bigger world than the one around your dinner table. Or don't you, Brendan?

Lucy Mathen, email

Lest we forget

Really enjoyed your Remembrance issue [Nov 2-8] and look forward to following the story of Sergeant Rick Clement. I'm glad you will be following his progress - it's so much more enjoyable to follow a story as it happens, rather than have it all told in retrospect.

Mel Lane, Dorchester

My local vendor Anna held my trolley while I bent down to pick up my poppy which had fallen down for the 10th time. I was moaning about the plastic stalks which don't remain in situ, and mentioned the silk poppies when I was a child - they were on wire stalks, which were easier to push through a coat lapel. Anna took the poppy and tied it through my bag's zip. I bought my Big Issue, thanked her and went on my way.

Someone was calling me and when I turned it was Anna running after me, holding out a beautiful silk poppy on a wire stalk, which she persuaded me to accept. It must have been her own. What a truly lovely lady.

S Mortimer, Buckinghamshire

Write to: The Big Issue, Second Floor, 43 Bath St Glasgow, G2 1HW

Email: letters@bigissue.com Comment: [bigissue.com](https://www.bigissue.com)

[facebook.com/bigissueUK](https://www.facebook.com/bigissueUK) [@bigissue](https://twitter.com/bigissue) [@bigissueuk](https://www.instagram.com/bigissueuk)



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

Take credit

The muddling of concepts of taxation and welfare which occurs with tax credits [John Bird, November 2-8] is just one problem with this benefit. From the start, tax credit overpayments stemming from official errors were recouped, which has been extended to other benefits. Claimants can face repayment demands years after supposed entitlement, clawing them back into poverty. In 2012-2013, social security changes went almost unnoticed, such as the abolition of national council tax benefit and its replacement by local reduction schemes. Two years on, council tax default levels are reaching record levels. But how many people, apart from claimants, even know these changes have happened? The biggest sink into which social security money is poured is the housing benefit system, which operates as a welfare state for landlords.

With rising rents, much of this money in London is channelled off abroad by ex-patriate landlords. As non-domiciles they pay nothing back into the system. Until this is tackled, personal debt levels in the UK will rise and welfare reform efforts look destined to fail.

Alan Murdie, Chairman, Nucleus Legal Advice, London

@Lizard_UK

Thought that @BigIssue would be only leftie crap but actually very good. Buy it and help the less fortunate!



BIRD'S WORD

@lucyhopelucy

Thank you John Bird for sane and serious comment on threatened cuts to tax credits - aka business employment support grant

GOSPEL TRUTH

@ClaireCoia

Neither pro/anti religion but an interview with the Pope is a sign of the quality and integrity of the @BigIssue

Magic numbers

I loved the finance pull-out [October 26-November 1]. It was full of good advice, information about ethical companies and investments, and heartening stories of people being given a leg up to make their lives better. I liked the stories of refugee women making successes of small business ventures and winning round initially disapproving husbands/male relatives! Also good to read about Big Issue Invest and the causes you supported over the years. One of the best issues yet.

Charlotte, email

Cover star

The Big Issue seller at Saltburn-by-the-Sea told me the Pope was on your cover [Nov 9-15]. As a regular reader and a Catholic, I was interested. I hope The Big Issue's readership among the Church increases greatly on reading such a revealing and interesting interview.

Mike Morrissey, Saltburn

A helping hand up

My son used to be a Big Issue vendor in London. He has schizophrenia and you gave him back his self-respect. When his sister died you gave him his coach fare to get to Scotland for her funeral, after his dad refused to help. I cannot thank you enough for what you've done for him.

Samantha Adams, email

FEEDBACK LOOP

Juliet Chaplin [Nov 2-8] wrote in to defend our royals, adding that Oman's Sheikh channels oil revenues into infrastructure. This reader reckons that's immaterial...

How is the absolute monarch of Oman relevant to the UK? Is Juliet suggesting the royal family should invest their vast fortune for the country's benefit, finance themselves and not rely on taxpayers? Are there concrete examples of the royal family's contribution to an equal society? (No vague references to tourism, please.)

Anna Syngellakis, Southampton

TRAVEL INSURANCE

designed by Travellers for Travellers



FOR BACKPACKERS AND ADVENTURE TRAVELLERS



TrueTraveller

Up to £10M medical expenses, one way trips at no extra cost, cover if already abroad, as well as extreme sports and activities including trekking, volunteer work, Scuba Diving to 50M and many more.

GET A QUOTE

truetraveller.com

0333 999 3140

THE EDITOR

We're being watched. Pass me that telescope



Illustration: Lauren Crow

Last week I bought a telescope. This was not in reaction to any TV ad, rather a long promised present.

Buying online, when I clicked to make the purchase, I was shown what other people who had bought it had also bought. This, of course, is not uncommon. Our habits are recorded and regurgitated by a world of complex algorithms.

I expected some books on the solar system, or maybe a map of the night sky glorying in the wonder of the infinite beyond. It wasn't that.

Merrily listed was a selection of snooping paraphernalia. There was a HD bullet camera. There was a CCTV kit with two cameras (presumably for home use). There was even a drone. (I was tempted...)

It put recent debate about Theresa May's Snooper's Charter in new light. She is not pushing hard against the tide of real public mood. She's cresting high.

We have become a nation who, to use that great Scottish phrase, think everybody is 'at it'. We're not sure what they're at, we're just sure they're at it. And we're damn well certain they're not going to get away with it. If they are, why can't we!

Britons have always been nosy – the curtain twitchers of Europe. And there is certainly a big element of nosiness to a growing desire to own surveillance equipment. But it feels somehow different. It feels like a mindset change, an indirect consequence of measuring up the strivers and skivers. We feel we are in a position to judge others, that we are in the right, and the great

unwashed out there, choosing benefits as a lifestyle choice, are in the wrong.

A growing surveillance culture is a result of a lack of faith in everybody else.

There is a flipside, too. As we insist on watching everybody else, they'll want to watch us.

We live in an age when everything is constantly recorded, and immediately then uploaded for instant viewing. The idea of capturing moments is no longer special, rather it is normalised. This is an aspect that makes opposition to May's attempt to retain records of everything we have done online so confusing. The records are there, publicly made available by us all every day. We leave footprints everywhere.

We allow people access to our lives on an unprecedented level. Of course there are elements we want to keep private. It's not clear that May's proposals will uncover them (hopefully not). I've never bought the line that if you have nothing to hide you have nothing to fear – innocent people get implicated in things they have nothing to do with all the time.

So while some of May's plans may make us uncomfortable, we're all part of a wider technological and cultural change. If May's plans help by finding another means to stop identity fraud and the growing scourge of personal bank accounts being plundered then that can only be a good thing.

It's unlikely it'll stop us being nosy. That is beyond ANY government.

paul.mcnamee@bigissue.com
@pauldmcnamee

OFF THE GRID...



BIG KNITATHON

Talk about spinning a good yarn. The Scottish Women's Institute has enlisted its 17,000 members to knit warm woolies for Big Issue vendors this Christmas. Anne and Jane Muirhead will be inspiring their crafty SWI ladies to take part in The Big Issue Foundation's Big Knitathon, knitting cosy garments and raising funds to help the magazine's sellers move out of homelessness.

Anne, 73, says: "This is a fantastic cause with very worthy recipients, so between our scarves, gloves, blankets and hats, we'll make sure The Big Issue's vendors don't feel a chill this winter." And she adds: "At the SWI we're passionate about making a difference and helping others in need. I've been a member for 40 years and I still love the fact that when we work together we achieve extraordinary results. I and many of my fellow members were taught how to knit in primary school and have the best part of 70 years to perfect the skill."

Got the needle? Join the Big Knitathon at bigissue.org



TOP MARKS!

The Big Issue's cracking competition for kids to draw the cover for our Christmas magazine has made it into the school books. Anna, daughter of reader Claire Coia, wrote her Current Affairs class entry (pictured) based on editor



Paul McNamee's editorial about the competition and a host of entries we've received from children in a homeless hostel who drew their idea of a perfect Christmas. "I think it's wonderful that little children participated in this,

even though most of them won't get even a teddy bear or nice dinner. I also think more people should help them have the Christmas they deserve," wrote Anna. We couldn't agree more. See page 16 for your last chance to enter the cover comp.



FROM THE VAULT... NOV 2007 NO. 770

Our Warholian cover star Sharon Osbourne tells us how she leaves her "hard-assed" screen persona behind when she's at home with her family. "I don't want to walk around pissed off and angry." We also look at the shocking reality of Christian fundamentalism in the US.



Illustration: Michl Blunt

LARS MYTTING

How to appreciate chopping wood

Burning wood is mankind's oldest energy. They say you can always see a face in the fire, that's because it is organic – the combustion of an organism that has been alive. The sense of warmth you get from burning wood is more intense and satisfying than flicking a button and using electrical heat. It's impossible to explain scientifically, it is buried somewhere in our genes.

Collecting firewood is hard work but gives an exact reward for your labour. If it is a very heavy tree I am working with I know that it will give a lot of good firewood. There is no luck or guessing involved. I have to struggle. What I invest in muscle and sweat I get rewarded with in heat.

Chopping wood is great exercise. It is also very relaxing because you have to focus on the task almost like a martial

artist. It can be a release from bad thoughts and burdens elsewhere in life. Frustration goes into the wood, then you burn it in the fire.

All wood burns but some will be denser and burn hotter than others, especially oak and beech if you are so lucky to have it. My guideline is that you should take whatever is nearby but if you can choose, ash is one of the very best you will find in Britain. The trees grow reasonably fast and the wood dries fast.

Stack the split wood and leave it to dry for one or two seasons. Have as much ventilation as possible. If you have to choose between sun and wind, you should always choose wind. You should have a cover but the absolute no-no is to cover it with a plastic sheet because then it will become really moist, mouldy and it will look awful.

If you take a drive around

Norway you will see lots of firewood and some really nice stacks in all towns, which are admired by neighbours.

Older men who have been used to a life of work enjoy chopping wood when they don't have much to do, and they will do it repeatedly. I think it's about building a legacy for their family, something they know will outlast them; more simply they feel they are doing something meaningful.

In modern society, where so much is created on a screen and is not real, one of the most satisfying things you can do is to be able to put your hands on the result of your work, and it reminds you of our connection with nature.

Norwegian Wood: Chopping, Stacking and Drying Wood the Scandinavian Way by Lars Mytting is out now (MacLehose Press, £20)

I'VE GOT ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SCHOOLS THAT IGNORE BULLYING

LAUREN SEAGER SMITH, NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR OF THE ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

So this sounds self-defeating but after 13 years of banging on about bullying we're tired of zero-tolerance schools. They pride themselves on being a 'no bullying here' school and slam the door in your face when you offer help. Trouble is, they also have a tendency to slam the door in the face of pupils and parents who try to explain that there *is* bullying there and nothing is being done about it.

It's a mistake to think that by saying you don't tolerate bullying it means it won't occur. Bullying is anywhere there are humans. It thrives in a culture of silence. Children need brave headteachers to say, yes we have bullying – but we listen, we take action and learn from mistakes. We look at our collective responsibility for what goes on here and we decide what is fair and what needs to change.

So here's to the talking schools, the questioning schools, the won't rest until this is a good place where we all want to be



schools. The zero-denial schools – it's in these schools we really get tough with bullying.

Anti-bullying Week 2015 is from November 16-20 with the theme 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. For more information: anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk / @ABAonline.

● Tell us about a campaign or issue you care about and the change you want. @bigissue; editorial@bigissue.com

**WALK
IN HER
SHOES**

**MARCH
2016**



Girls like Zema walk for miles every day to fetch water.

**WALK WITH US IN MARCH
CHANGE A GIRLS LIFE**

**REGISTER AT WALKINHERSHOES.CO.UK
OR CALL 020 7091 6100**

 **WALK 10,000 STEPS A DAY FOR A WEEK IN MARCH**

 **RAISE MONEY TO HELP CHANGE THE LIVES OF
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE POOREST COMMUNITIES**

 **SIGN UP NOW AND GET YOUR Pedometer AND T-SHIRT**



FundRaising
Standards Board

Registered charity number: 292506



HIDDEN BRITAIN

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WALKINGWORLD.COM



No.51

Dughall Mor

REELIG GLEN, INVERNESS

Reelig Glen is a narrow, steep-sided gorge, cut through by the gushing waters of the Moniack burn. The glen belonged to the Fraser family for 500 years before being sold to the Forestry Commission in 1949. James Baillie Fraser (1783-1856) planted many of the trees.

The woodland is a mixture of conifer and broadleaved trees but its real claim to fame is a stand of Douglas Firs that are well over 100 years old. They soar to a height of around 170 feet (50 metres). In 2000 one of these giants measured over 200 feet, making it the tallest tree in Britain at the time. The



Forestry Commission held a naming competition and it was christened Dughall Mor ('Big Douglas').

In the 1840s Fraser employed local men out of work during the clearances

to build a stone bridge and grotto called Tigh an Aigh. The men claimed the glen was a place of fairies because their day's work was often found undone the following morning – a good way of prolonging the employment.

The trees are so straight and tall that one was felled to provide a replacement mast for the *Discovery*, the ship in which the explorer Captain Scott sailed to the Antarctic.

Grid reference: NH 557425

Get instructions and OS map for this walk (ID 555) for free until November 29 at walkingworld.com. Use discount code HB5 to access more than 6,000 routes for just £15.

 Share your photos of this Hidden Britain and ideas for others @bigissue; editorial@bigissue.com



FORWARD THINKING... Seeing clearly. Creators of a mobile phone app say it could help reduce blindness, which affects 285 million people globally, by 80 per cent. Four out of five cases could be prevented with early diagnosis and treatment. In rural Africa doctors are remote – but smartphones are everywhere. The PEEK Portable Eye Examination Kit app and adaptor is cheap and simple, allowing a high-quality image of the patient's retina to be beamed to a doctor who can recommend treatment.

MY PECCADILLO



RICHIE CAMPBELL
THE FRANKENSTEIN CHRONICLES ACTOR
EDDIE MURPHY

One of my earliest memories is my uncle saying, 'He's just like Eddie Murphy' because I have this big grin. So I set out to find out all about him. I don't see it as an obsession but everyone else does.

I'm 33, so I'm *The Nutty Professor* generation. It blew my mind how he played so many characters in one film, so I dug out his earlier stuff. Before I knew it I had all his films on DVD. They're stacked in chronological order in my wardrobe.

I'm amazed how Eddie Murphy commands the room with his crazy, hyper comedy. I also have his music. When I was 17, I spent silly money on a signed copy of his single *I Was a King* with Shabba Ranks.

I spent a day on *The Frankenstein Chronicles* doing the barber shop scene from *Coming to America*. Sean Bean looked at me like I was crazy. I also do a mean Eddie Murphy laugh. It was my way of trying to get girls but it never worked out. Maybe



I was born too late. If I could go back to the '80s, I'd be the king.

There are rumours he's doing *Triplets* with Danny DeVito and Arnie, and there's talk of *Beverly Hills Cop 4*. I'll have to call my US agent – one scene with Eddie and I could retire happy.

The Frankenstein Chronicles airs Wednesdays, 10pm on ITV Encore; *Harry Price: Ghost Hunter* is coming soon to ITV



“When the madness came to a stop I got scared. I lived my whole life in fear, waiting for the next panic attack”

Peter Andre

Singer, Strictly star

LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

So I'm 16 years old and I like partying but my whole mind is on music. I'm practising and practising and practising, I'm doing everything I can, every waking minute, practising my vocals. I asked dad for a PA system, which I remember cost \$130, and he was generous enough to let me have it because I promised to use it every single day. I set it up in the garage, it was just a microphone you could plug into speakers. I would go to buy vinyl singles that had instrumental versions of the songs on the b-side, and I'd pretend I was on stage and just go for it.

I wasn't popular with girls at first.

I was this Greek guy with an English accent, very curly dark hair, brown eyes, brown features, growing up on the Gold Coast, which was full of these blonde surfing life-savers. It was a really tough time. I did everything I could to straighten my hair because I didn't want to stand out on the beach. But I couldn't have looked more Greek. If I could go back, I'd put an arm around my teenage self and say, you know what? Curly's good, let it all hang out man. You look great.

I'd tell the younger me to chill out, enjoy the moment more.

I was a real worrier and my worry stopped me enjoying a lot of amazing things. I don't know if it's to do with my star sign, me being a Pisces, but worry has always been a downfall. I'd also tell myself to keep some of my opinions, no matter how true, to myself because talking gets you in trouble. Truth doesn't always win. And the most important thing of all; listen. That's the only way to learn. Listening is the most important thing I do now that I didn't do then.

I was very shy and polite. My parents were very strict, very religious [his family were Jehovah's Witnesses] and we were held on a tight rope. I haven't changed much. Obviously I have a family now so the partying side of me is completely finished. But the determination, and hopefully the politeness, are still there. I've never wanted to grow up in some ways, though I have in others. I was a very sensitive kid and I've toughened up a lot. But I don't want to lose that kid because that insecurity keeps you humble.

I'd tell my younger self not to be downhearted.

I went in for every talent show going and I never won. But I was so determined. Then when I was 16 there was a national TV talent show in Australia called *New Faces*, a bit like *Britain's Got Talent*. I actually won the whole thing and was offered a recording contract live on air. After that I waited by the phone day after day for the record company to get back to me. I didn't hear from them for about six months. I'd given up, then I got a call saying, you're going to England to record an album. I remember jumping up and down, I was so elated, I was screaming. I will never ever ever forget that. It was the dream of dreams. There's a movie called *White Men Can't Jump*? Well, I could jump.

My life for a while was just madness. Touring with Madonna, doing my own tours. I was living by a schedule, working seven days a week. I didn't know anything that was going on outside the bubble I was in. So when it came to a stop, I got scared. I woke up not knowing what to do. The pressure mounted, it was like a Coke bottle being shaken and shaken.

Clockwise from top:
Young Peter toured with Madonna; with ex-wife Katie Price and their daughter, Princess Tiaamii; on *Strictly Come Dancing*



One day that lid is going to come off and everything will go everywhere. I didn't understand what I was feeling. It was overwhelming, and I began to think I was going to die. I lived my whole life in fear, waiting for the next panic attack. That led to agoraphobia, and I had a fear of heights... I couldn't even go on a rollercoaster with my son.

If I'd known then what I know now about anxiety, I'd have saved myself a lot of heartache. Basically, knowledge is key. Anxiety is very controllable, it's not a lifelong illness. It took me over 10 years to realise a panic attack can't actually do you any harm. The worst that can happen is you'll pass out then wake up and be fine. It can't kill you. But it's hard to believe it can't kill you because the anxiety is that bad when it strikes. As soon as I really believed it couldn't kill me, I started to wonder what I was so scared of.

If I could go back I'd tell my brothers not to smoke. I lost one of my brothers and they say it was through smoking. I'd do everything I could to stop him starting. It would have been my mission in life.

I won't go into detail [about his marriage to Jordan/Katie Price] but with me, I think I rebelled against my strict religious upbringing. There was a lot we weren't allowed to do, so when I left Australia I think I went a bit crazy. You let yourself go and I think I let myself go a bit too much. You regret things but I didn't know any better and all of those experiences brought me to now, where I'm in this wonderful relationship, and I have beautiful children.

When my daughter was born I was determined she was going to be a nun. I used to say, in the nunnery you'll wear this or that. I didn't want to think of ever hearing about boyfriends. But children soften you. You see yourself in their eyes and you remember how strict your own parents were and you think, ah, I might be more lenient than I thought.

I didn't know how tough *Strictly* was going to be. It's like going to boot camp every Monday. On Wednesday you're completely convinced there's no way you'll be ready for the weekend. You're full of insecurity. Also, I realised I wasn't as good as I thought I was. I had spent 20 years doing my own shows in front of people who had paid to see me. I wasn't prepared for being told by a bunch of judges if I was rubbish or not. The fear! I feel like that 16-year-old going to do *New Faces* again every time I go on stage.

It's so funny, I remember when I was 16 looking at pictures of 40-year-olds and thinking how old they looked. And thinking when I turn 40... I imagined the years would not have been kind. If I'd known that 25 years later I'd be dancing on a very glamorous show, and I wouldn't have any grey hair – I'd be pretty pleased.

Peter Andre's new album *Come Fly With Me* is out now. He is touring the UK in February and March. peterandre.com
Interview: Jane Graham @Janeannie

IN 1989, THE YEAR PETER ANDRE TURNS 16... The Berlin Wall comes down / Sir Tim Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web while working at CERN / *The Simpsons* appear on our TV screens / Game Boy launches



A kettle, cutlery, a toaster.

A few simple things that help make a home. And a big difference from living on the street.

If you want to make a big difference with a small donation, you can start with a pen and a pair of scissors or with your smartphone. Thank you.

The Big Issue magazine offers homeless people the opportunity of a livelihood.

The Big Issue Foundation offers vendors the opportunity of a life. We work tirelessly alongside our vendors to help them deal with the issues that have caused their homelessness or have developed as a result of hitting the streets.



I would like to give a monthly gift of £5 £7 £15

Originator's identification number 973604.

Full name and postal address of your bank/building society Post code

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code Account number

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay The Big Issue Foundation direct debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The Big Issue Foundation and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some type of accounts.

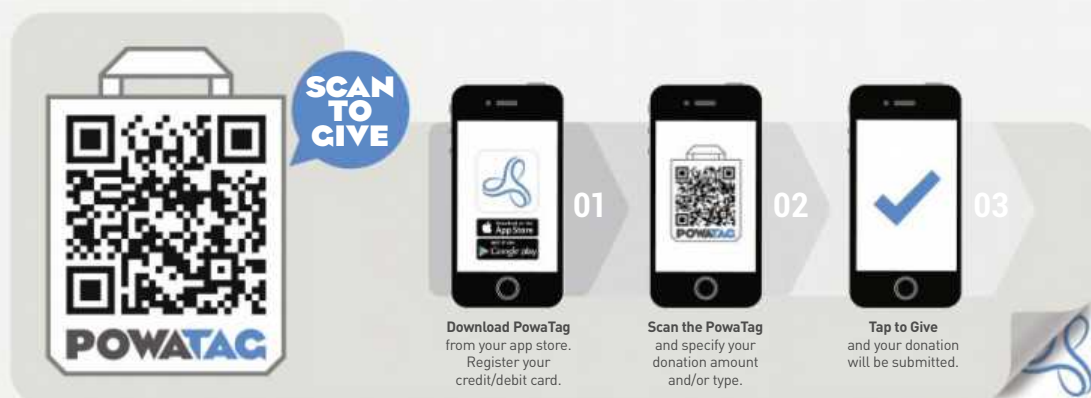
Gift Aid Declaration *giftaid it*
 I would like The Big Issue Foundation (BIF) to reclaim the tax on all qualifying gifts of money I have made in the past, present and for all future donations I make from this day forward until I notify you otherwise. I confirm that I am a UK Tax Payer and that I pay as much income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all the charities and CASCs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for each tax year (6th April to 5th April, currently 25p of tax for every £1 I donate). I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Full name

Address Post code

Please return this completed form to our freepost address:
The Big Issue Foundation (registered charity no. 1049077)
FREEPOST LONI7469, London, SW8 2BR

...or try the new smarter way to give, with PowaTag



Offering a hand up may be the best thing you do today



Arithmetic lives in all things. You might call it the arithmetic of change. A Big Issue vendor decides to leave his pitch in a small town. The word goes out that the vendor has had his official badge removed. In the region of 300 people email complaints to The Big Issue at what is seen as an attack on the vendor and his needs.

It's difficult but we try and get the word out that in fact he has left of his own accord; and that is the right of the vendor. Often people ask us about people who have moved on. And often we have to say they have left and not left indication as to where.

The above little story, though, throws up something that is very sensitive around the work we do. Which is 'what actually are we doing? Are we placing people in need in a public place in order for people to hand them money? Or are we trying to instil in people a work ethic on the basis that it may well enable them to move on to something better?'

The strange thing about this story is that the seller only sold 60 papers a week. And sometimes even less. So his relationship to many it would seem was that of a beggar.

The Big Issue brings people in need to the marketplace to work and earn, like most people have to do. The fact that people have the means to buy the paper is on most occasions due to the fact that they have earned the money to do so.

Or, as with pensioners, they have at some stage made the contributions that have enabled them to get a pension, so they are among other things able to buy The Big Issue.

Yet in the case above, what seemed to be happening on most occasions was that The Big Issue was bringing the vendor to the marketplace and people were turning him back into a beggar. Yet most people who we talk to say that what they love about The Big Issue is that it gives people the dignity of not begging.

I always insist that people take the paper, otherwise it does not make sense to parade someone as working, yet in

fact they are still relying on handouts.

Take the paper, read it, but don't forget to pay the vendor first. That is the equation that we developed to get people away from begging. For standing around, waiting for the goodness of the world to descend upon you, is no life at all. It robs you of the chance of developing skills; like looking after your



Taking The Big Issue provides vendors with a hand up

money, learning to sell, learning to live within the means of the money you make.

Begging is begging. Begging leads on most occasions to begging. I know of many Big Issue vendors who have stabilised themselves through selling, and developed and moved on. I know others who have no desire or capacity to move on but they have created themselves a selling niche, selling a product in the marketplace.

Yet I also have known through my long street association many beggars who have been mentally and socially and physically destroyed by being beggars. Fine people, at

“Trade not Aid works just as well on the streets. Lift people up through the dignity of what they are doing”

times strong, at times physically weak, yet all diminished and turned into recipients of people's illusions that they are helping.

'Trade not Aid' was invented by people who worked in Asia and Africa because they could see the destruction wrought by giving aid to nations in crisis. Yet that did not end the crisis because it kept people destitute through dependency.

We operate the same system. 'Trade not Aid' works just as well on the streets of Glasgow, Cardiff or Birmingham. Lift people up through the dignity of what they are doing.

I can understand why people may pay over the top for a copy of The Big Issue. That is their choice. But when people just give money and say 'Keep the paper', they are only doing some short-term good.

And they are harming our model.

But it could have been different, if we had followed the advice of a woman who in the early days of The Big Issue wrote to me to complain. She was outraged when she spoke to a Big Issue vendor – she found out that the person selling the paper kept the money made; after buying the paper from us.

In short, he was working for his 'own gain!' That flew in the face of all her concepts of goodness and charity. She recommended, else she would stop buying, that we collect all the money together and give it out to the poor. In other words: 'Aid not Trade'.

We did not follow the model she recommended. We backed the robustness of our own programme: to give people the chance to earn their own money. And give them the chance by this of ending their exclusion outside of society.

And that is what we continue to struggle to do. To stick to the principle that we are here to help people to help themselves by earning their own money. I know of many people, including myself, who have been enabled by this simple device. 'A hand up not a handout' is the wisest and toughest and most rewarding thing you can give someone today.

John Bird is the founder and Editor in Chief of The Big Issue. @johnbirdswords
john.bird@bigissue.com

FAIRPHONE

Together let's change the way
phones are made

Conflict-free minerals

Made to last

Changing supply chains

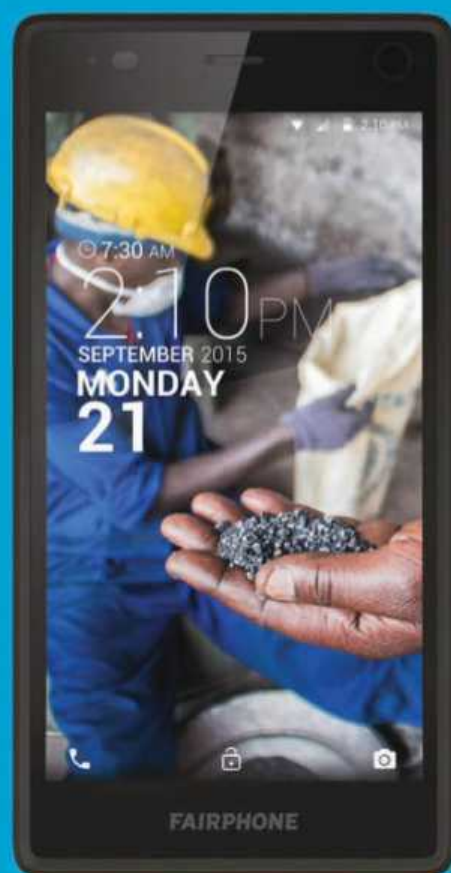
Responsible recycling

Pre-order your Fairphone 2

Minutes, unlimited texts and
data from £25 per month

☎ 01608 434 444

➤ thephone.coop/bigissue



The **co-operative** mobile

Forget pay paranoia, women still have a real image problem



Monday November 9 was a special sort of day. First off, it was Equal Pay Day. Equal Pay Day was devised by the Fawcett Society. It marks the day when, they say, as a result of the ‘gender pay gap’ women effectively stop earning relative to men.

I’m dubious about some of these statistics. Because while headlines repeated the hyperbolic statement that all women are, as of this day, effectively working for free, what failed to make headlines was the fact that women in the 22-39 age bracket are actually earning more than men. The statistics also ignore all the other demographics that ought to show up as variables. Hinging the entire issue of equal pay on gender lines alone seems... unequal.

While all this was going on, over in New York Chinese billionaire Liu Yiqian was busy buying Modigliani’s 1917 painting of a female nude for \$170m. It was the second highest price ever paid for an artwork at auction; the highest was Picasso’s *Les Femmes d’Alger*, an abstraction of female nudes modelled on a harem painting by Eugène Delacroix. This was sold for \$179m at a similar event at Christie’s in May. Both events were curated auctions where a majority of pieces were guaranteed a minimum sale value. Guaranteeing lots is a risky strategy for any auction house but one that has appeared to pay off. And pay out. All of Christie’s art auctions are valorised through pecuniary superlatives – the highest value ever, the highest number sold – each achieving a world record mapped out in dollar bills.

But something else was troubling me. Almost all the lots on the auction block were by male artists. Of the 34 total works sold in the May auction, only two were by women: Diane Arbus and Elizabeth Peyton. At an average \$755K, they achieved considerably less than most of the other seven, eight and even nine-figure sales. In the November auction, titled *The Artist’s Muse*, not even one artist was female.

Which brings me to my next point.

While not all the paintings were of nudes, those that were nudes were invariably women. The closest we came to a male nude in either auction is a photograph of and by Jeff Koons with one hand on his wife’s – porn-star-cum-politician La Cicciolina’s – breast. That is, we assume Koons to be naked but only a bit of his thigh and shoulder are visible behind La Cicciolina’s body. Moreover, *The Artist’s Muse* showcased three classic reclining female nudes: one by Modigliani, one by Courbet and the third by Lucian Freud. All the nudes are overtly sexual, although in classic art-speak this is framed primarily in terms of their being ‘challenges to the establishment’...

Of the three, Lucian Freud’s was the only one not to sell. The auctioneers surmised that this was because *Naked*

Portrait on a Red Sofa is actually of Freud’s daughter Bella. She lies naked on the sofa, all limbs and nipples and pubic hair, gazing up at her father, the unseen artist, whose invisible gaze we inherit as spectators. Should we be alarmed at the incestuous undertones? No – the auctioneers lamented only that they had not put the work up for sale in London, where buyers are – apparently – less ‘puritanical’. “Maybe we positioned it slightly aggressively,” they mused, regretfully. I can only surmise what is meant by ‘aggressively’ – do they mean positioning it against the other two nudes, thereby amplifying the troubling sexual dimension of the Freud? A Freudian slip, perhaps, but in that case perhaps we ought to be frank about the fact that these paintings are objects of exquisitely wrought porn. Exquisite. But porn.

Not that I have a problem with porn, necessarily. I just like to call it by its name.

And I like it to be balanced. Because in these salesrooms, I am only seeing sexualised pictures of naked women, made by men, and sold for millions – and millions – and millions – of dollars.

Is it for me to determine what Christie’s should show in its salesrooms? No. These are not museums, not created for the public good; they are auction houses, and they exist for the purpose of selling. They exist for the purpose of making money, for rich people who are trying to become richer.

What troubles me is that while social media clickbait is making us all paranoid that Bob or Sue in accounts might be earning £2 an hour more or less than we are, images of women’s – not men’s – bodies are still being bought and sold as commodities, just as they always were; a woman’s worth is validated not in her wage packet but in her commodifiable image, and a man’s worth is measured by his wallet.



Modigliani’s *Nu Couché* was recently sold for \$170m

“In these salesrooms I only see sexualised pictures of naked women, made by men and sold for millions of dollars”

Dr Victoria Anderson is a research fellow at Cardiff University

COVER COMPETITION

Be our Big Issue cover star!

OUR COMPETITION FOR A YOUNGSTER TO SEE THEIR FESTIVE SCENE ON STREETS ACROSS THE UK IS COMING TO A CLOSE...

This is it: the last call for entries for The Big Issue's Kids' Christmas Cover Competition! Entries are pouring in, and every one will be a star in our December 7 issue. We've had covers from whole classes of schoolmates, groups of friends, families and, poignantly, from a group of children who are living in a homeless hostel.

The competition shows the universal spirit of togetherness that can come from taking part in a quest that unites the whole country, and sharing in the creation of something bright and beautiful.

Our 2014 winner, eight-year-old Maya Jerram, from Bristol, said: "You feel as though you are doing good for other people as well as yourself."

And 2013's winner, Dylan Allman, aged seven, said that he entered because "I wanted to put a smile on the face of my vendor".

Children's Laureate Chris Riddell championed the competition's spirit of sharing and togetherness: "Sitting down with your children and a sketchbook and drawing together is a wonderful thing to do. The Big Issue's idea of a competition to illustrate is all about that. It's saying, 'Pick up a pen, a pencil or a crayon and draw something'."

You can see Chris' beautifully illustrated guide to drawing a brilliant cover at bigissue.com.

Drawings can be anything at all – snowmen, reindeer, penguins, angels, elves, Santa, Christmas trees, the Nativity, snow scenes, piles of presents... anything goes!

Send entries marked KIDSCOVERCOMPETITION with a name, age, address and contact email/telephone number (we won't pass them on to any third party) and post to The Big Issue, 43 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 1HW or email editorial@bigissue.com.

See bigissue.com for more details



STREET ART



◀ BLOOMING FLOWERS

BY MANGO

Mango is a London-based graffiti artist and photographer who submitted this work via the 240 Project, a charity for people affected by homelessness, vulnerability and exclusion. He has been spray painting on the underground scene for about 24 years, both in London and in Europe. His gothic pieces portray a melancholic expression of his “darker side”, reflective of his life and background.

AFTER VILLON

BY JOHN SHEEHY

I know maggots in sheep
I know the field by its grass
I know kindness from badness
I know tea by its colour in the cup
I know the bird when I hear its song
I know when it's safe
I know adding from soaking
I know most except self
I know how to hole a slate
I know how to cut and fix slates
I know how to plough and till a field
I know my employer by my wages
I know an expert by their knowledge
I know a scam when it's too much
I know fools with distinguished degrees
I know beer by its head in the glass
I know most except self

I know motorways cars and trucks

I know what taxes and fuels
I know hotels and cells
I know tills and deceit
I know honesty and cheating
I know aristocrat and tramps
I know authority and corrupts
I know most except self
Professor I know assessment and
resentments
I know prescription and street
I know sober and junkies
I know death calls seldom goes empty
I know well-being and death wish
I know traps and taps
I know most except self
After Villon

John was born in Ireland in 1949 and emigrated to London in the 1950s. He has experienced homelessness and has suffered mental health problems. John's artistic output spans painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography and poetry. “Art helps me – it's crucial, necessary; gets me through the day, gets me through the night,” he says. “It's a friend to me – a big-time friend.”

▶ UNFINISHED

BY SHIRIN ALI

“I suffered from an abusive relationship but I refused to let it break me,” says Shirin. “I escaped and became an activist for change and for human rights, particularly of women. In my own small way I hope my drawings show the inner strength of those who are oppressed, and the desire for freedom.”



BUY STREET ART!

You can buy prints of some artworks featured in *Street Art* through The Big Issue Shop. At least half of the profit from each sale goes to the artist. Order at shop.bigissue.com

Street Art is created by people who are marginalised by issues like homelessness, disability and mental health conditions. Contact streetlights@bigissue.com to see your art here.



Stuck for a great Christmas Gift?

TIME FOR A BIG ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION

The very best interviews, opinions and unique world view every week.

How do I subscribe?

GO TO subscribe.bigissue.com
OR CALL 01795 414 753

- 3 MONTHLY 13 issues of The Big Issue delivered to your door
£32.50 per quarter

- 6 MONTHLY 26 issues of The Big Issue delivered to your door
£65 per half year

- 12 MONTHLY 51 issues of The Big Issue delivered to your door
£130 per year



CAN'T GET TO A VENDOR EVERY WEEK BUT WANT TO SHOW

SUPPORT FOR THOSE ON THE STREET? THIS IS YOUR ANSWER.



Our work has helped tens of thousands of people to work their way out of poverty. By subscribing you help us offer year-round support to our sellers on the streets - A HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT - and you get a fantastic magazine delivered to your door every week.



In a real-life automated world, The Jetsons could claim basic income from the state



ANALYSIS / ADAM FORREST

What happens when robots take our jobs?

The robot army is coming, we are told. An automaton workforce will soon be stealing everyone's jobs, so says report after report. Can this really be the case?

Technological change brings new jobs as well as destroying old ones, surely. Human beings are in charge of the machines we make, ultimately. And we always find a way of giving ourselves work to do.

But I have been largely won over by the pessimists, in part by Paul Mason's excellent book (*PostCapitalism*) on the looming crisis caused by online technology, and in part by the most in-depth of those gloomy speculative studies about robots ever undertaken.

A whopping 300-page report by analysts from Bank of America Merrill Lynch outlines the inevitability of increased automation, and convincingly explores a technological wave they consider to be a "fourth industrial revolution". Up to 35 per cent of all workers in the UK are at risk of being displaced by digital tech over the next 20 years.

A lot remains uncertain, of course. But if big changes are inevitable – and they do feel inevitable – another fashionable economic idea might have to be taken more seriously: the universal basic income. Lefty dreamers have been fond of it for quite a while but it's now being proposed by economists interested in solutions for a world with much less

manual work to go round. The basic income would be an unconditional payment given to every citizen, without means testing, without any requirement to work. No Jobcentre Plus assessments, no Atos tests, no guilt trips about scrounging off the state. It would be nothing less than the welfare state 2.0, no longer a safety net providing emergency cover when needed but a permanent structure underpinning everyone.

So how much would we get each? That's the tricky bit. In theory – and it really is just an outline theory – the payment could be set low enough to make sure people are still incentivised to work and earn more money – or do some work for the sheer pleasure of achieving things. But the basic income could also, in theory, be just large enough to cover basic living costs, and crucially would act as recognition that there isn't enough full-time work for everyone.

Mason has crunched a few numbers and suggests giving everyone in the UK £6,000 annually would cost the state £306bn a year, nearly double the current welfare bill (including pensions) of £167bn. It's a huge sum to find. But not, perhaps, impossible. One argument goes that more people will be free to spend time looking after their family, thus easing the burden on the NHS.

Even some of Silicon Valley's technopreneurs – a clan usually associated with right-wing, 'disruptive' economics – are

getting interested in the basic income. The Bay Area's tech geeks and policy wonks came together at the weekend for a 'Basic Income Createathon'. And some leading lights like venture capitalist Sam Altman are warming to it. "In a world where technology is going to eliminate jobs faster than we can create new ones... no one should be worrying about a place to sleep or food to eat," Altman argues. "By taking that pressure off people, some people will do nothing productive and some people will create incredible new leaps forward. Machines are going to do the rote work better."

The idea of the state being relaxed about millions of people sitting in front of *The Jeremy Kyle Show* munching Pot Noodles remains a deeply radical one. MIT professor Andrew McAfee thinks people get depressed without the sense of purpose work gives us. Other economists warn it would be hard to remove our sense of entitlement to the sum the basic income had granted, even if the nation's economic circumstances changed.

The basic income may not even prove to be a concept that is ever necessary. But if the robot apocalypse does in fact come to pass, the protestant work ethic might just require some serious adjustment.

@adamtomforrest

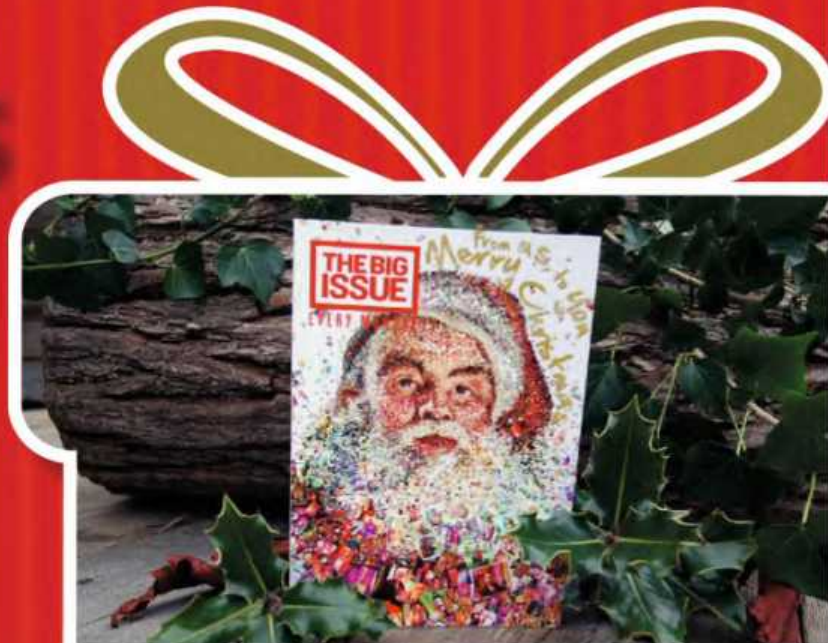
CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FROM THE BIG ISSUE SHOP

STREET ART

Exciting new prints available on The Big Issue Shop from Street Art contributors are a great idea for a Christmas gift. At least half the profit from each print goes to the artist, with the remaining profit helping The Big Issue give people living on the margins a hand up.

A4 £15.00 (+P&P)
A3 £25.00 (+P&P)

★ More prints and many other products available online



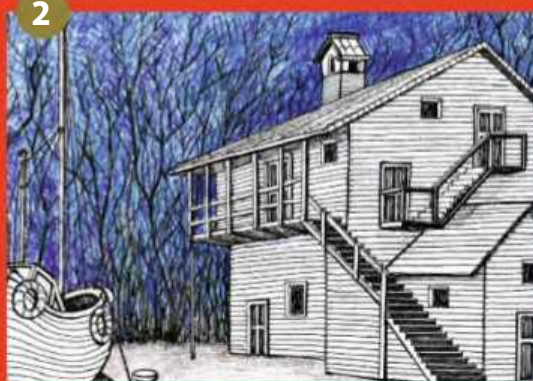
THE BIG ISSUE CHRISTMAS CARDS

A6 pack of 6: £4.50 (+P&P)

Back by popular demand, our Christmas card features a Santa whose face is made up of images of hundreds of vendors. All of the profit goes directly back to The Big Issue to give people living on the margins a hand up (they're made from recycled card!).



1



2



3



4

1. PARLOUR GAMES

by Rene Robbins

Rene found art through tragic loss. One of her friends invited her to attend an art project and she has been returning ever since. "There's always something new to see or learn," she says.

2. RETREAT

by Steve McIntosh

Steve taught himself to draw at a young age by reading and imitating DC and Marvel superhero comics. "I'm not sure why my landscapes and towns often lack people, maybe because I like solitude," says Steve.

3 AMY WINEHOUSE

by Bryony Marie Fry

"Amy Winehouse is a woman who changed my life without her ever even knowing."

4. MEDICINE LEAVES

by Robyn Forman

"My work is about healing, forgiveness and reconciliation."

BUY HERE



"shopping with a social echo"
John Bird

Every purchase through The Big Issue Shop directly supports the work that we do, offering a HAND UP and a chance to earn a legitimate income to those affected by poverty. To check out these prints and more products visit

shop.bigissue.com

NEED TO GET IN TOUCH? JUST EMAIL SHOP@BIGISSUE.COM



George Clooney takes a selfie with Social Bite staff, including former Big Issue vendors Sonny (far left) and Colin (directly next to Clooney)

LOOK WHO DROPPED BY FOR A BITE

George Clooney met two ex-Big Issue vendors as he showed his support for a café that helps homeless people. Words: **Andrew Burns**

Two former Big Issue vendors rubbed shoulders with George Clooney last week when the Hollywood icon swapped the red carpet for a selfless sandwich run.

Clooney was in Edinburgh to speak at the Scottish Business Awards last Thursday and stopped off at Social Bite, a chain of cafés that recruits a quarter of its staff from homeless backgrounds. The Oscar-winning actor is reported to have left a \$1,000 (£650) donation for the cause. Ex-vendors Sonny and Colin – pictured directly to Clooney’s right – used to sell the magazine in Edinburgh and were among the lucky Social Bite staff to welcome him to the Rose Street branch.

“Only two years ago I was living on the streets of Edinburgh with a heroin addiction and unable to even afford to eat,” said Sonny, 36. “Today I’m in full-time employment, have an amazing family and I just made lunch for one of the biggest stars on the planet. George genuinely seems like a great guy and it was a really special moment when he came into Social Bite to see what it is all about.”

Social Bite, which has seven outlets across Scotland, gives 100 per cent of its profits to charity and runs a “suspended” food and drink service, where customers can pay for food for homeless people to claim later.

Clooney, 54, praised Social Bite’s social impact in helping the homeless and highlighted The Big Issue’s ‘hand up, not a handout’ ethos. “I like what they’re doing,” he said. “I think it’s a very important cause. I think the idea that we can all participate in everyone’s difficulties is really important. All these people need is a hand up, not a handout.”

Clooney was greeted at Social Bite by a 200-strong horde of fans and photographers before he was whisked off for a one-to-one lunch date with competition winner Heather McGowan. “It still seems a bit surreal, and now that it’s over I can try to absorb all the little bits of the day,” said the 32-year-old wedding planner from Glasgow. “He was the most charming man. Everyone in there was absolutely captivated by everything that he had to say. I was really worried that I would be a mess but I held it together. It was a day that I am honestly not going to forget.”

Entrepreneur Josh Littlejohn, who co-founded Social Bite in 2012, set up Clooney’s visit. “He was delighted to spend time with some of our formerly homeless staff and hear the stories of how they have transformed their lives through full-time work. The fact that he not only sampled the food himself but also pre-paid meals for homeless people to claim later made it extra special,” he said.

Clooney was in Edinburgh to speak at the Scottish Business Awards dinner. Profits from the sell-out bash – which attracted former US president Bill Clinton in 2013 – will be shared among Social Bite’s chosen charities and Not on Our Watch, a charity co-founded by Clooney, Matt Damon and Brad Pitt.

His flying visit north of the border was complete when he charmed Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who tweeted a photograph (inset) of the pair, adding: “It was a tough job, ladies, but someone had to do it.” **TBI**



@andrewburns49



A photograph of a winter landscape. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the ground is covered in a thick layer of white. In the lower-left corner, a person wearing a dark winter coat and hat is walking away from the camera down a snow-covered path. The overall scene is serene and cold.

WILL WE EVER SEE A WHITE CHRISTMAS AGAIN?

Global temperatures are rising. Our autumns are mild, our seasons running into one. What's the reality of climate change – and what can be done? Ahead of the UN climate change summit in Paris, Dr Roz Pidcock sets the scene

Since the industrial revolution, burning coal, oil and gas has been silently releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These stop heat from the sun escaping, and warm the planet.

While scientists have known this for several decades, it wasn't until 2010 that the world's governments agreed to try to limit the warming to less than 2°C. But we're not doing too well on that front. We're already halfway there, with global temperature rises looking set to pass 1°C in 2015.

That might not sound like much but it represents a lot of extra heat in the atmosphere that wasn't there before. It took 140 years for temperatures to rise the first 0.5°C and only 25 years for the other 0.5°C – so we're emitting a lot faster than we used to. Each of the last three decades has been warmer than any others before it in the modern temperature record, and 2015 is on course to be the hottest year by a long way.

It's not just about rising temperatures. Warmer air affects the whole climate system. It melts ice, raises sea levels, disrupts weather, alters habitats, drives away plants and animals, brings new pests and diseases, triggers food and water shortages and can even contribute to civil unrest, conflict and mass migration.

In the UK we notice climate change because it's messing with our weather. It's making our winters

milder and wetter and our summers warmer and drier, says the Met Office – the UK's official weather forecaster. But it's not a gentle, innocuous slide – we're seeing our weather get more extreme. It's raining harder because warmer air can hold more moisture. Strong winds and rising seas mean that storms are more likely to breach coastal flood defences. All these combined in early 2014, for example, to cause the flooding that engulfed much of the country.

Weather is complicated, especially in the UK. A mild autumn – like we're seeing now – doesn't prove climate change any more than a cold snap disproves it. Will we see a White Christmas again? Scientists say it's still possible but climate change is dragging down the chances. Waking up on Christmas Day to snow blanketing the UK was common in the 18th and 19th centuries but has only happened four times in the past 50 years. We'd have a better chance of a White Christmas if we moved it back a few weeks, since it tends to snow more between January and March than in December. But that's getting less likely too as the climate warms.

How do we know all this? Most of it comes down to simple physics. That, and powerful supercomputers that forecast ahead, give scientists a pretty good idea of what we can expect.

Other countries have it much worse than the UK. The United Nations says heatwaves, like the 2003 >



This is a true story, but to protect the privacy of those we help, a model has been used for the photograph.

Amount to raise £394,600

Have your forgotten anyone this Christmas?

Friends, relatives, colleagues... in the rush to remember everyone you need to this Christmas, please don't forget homeless young people like John.

If you turn the page, John will spend Christmas Eve on a bench or in a derelict flat. After four years on the streets, he is at breaking point. He tries to get through the days and nights by drinking. He self-harms because he doesn't know how else to express his pain. Every day, he thinks about suicide.

Just £15 could give a young person a hot meal, warm, safe bed and someone to talk to this Christmas, so a young person is out of the cold and away from danger.

This year, you can make sure that John has a bed, a roof over his head, something to eat - shared with people who care. Just £15 will ensure he's safe, and warm Centrepoint this Christmas, thanks to you.

By donating £50, you could provide

someone with clean clothes, a warm, safe bed and essential health checks over Christmas for a young person. Please donate whatever you can afford at

centrepoint.org.uk

We urgently need your help this Christmas

This Christmas, there are hundreds of homeless young people who need our help. **We need to raise £394,600** to

provide all the vital support they need to get their lives back on track.

You'll hear from the young people you help

One Centrepoint resident said, *"Christmas at Centrepoint isn't perfect, but it feels more like home than anywhere I've ever known."*

Go online or fill in your details below and we'll send you a message in the New Year from a homeless young person touched by your generosity.

Please make a donation today

Bring John in from the cold this Christmas. It's easy to give, you can use the form below, call us free on **0800 138 3242** or visit us at

centrepoint.org.uk

How to help a homeless person this Christmas

- **£15** could give a young person a hot meal, warm, safe bed and someone to talk to.
- **£50** could provide someone with clean clothes, a warm, safe bed and essential health checks.
- **£100** could provide a warm, safe bed over Christmas plus the professional support these young people need to turn their lives around.



centrepoint.org.uk

- £15** could give a young person a hot meal, warm, safe bed and someone to talk to.
- £50** could provide someone with clean clothes, a warm, safe bed and essential health checks.
- £100** could provide a warm, safe bed over Christmas plus the professional support these young people need to turn their lives around.
- Other** £ _____ (your own amount)

Name as it appears on your card: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

By providing your telephone number and email address you agree that Centrepoint may contact you on occasion about your donations by telephone, SMS and/or email.

NAPI516B-03D

- I enclose a cheque made payable to Centrepoint
- I would like to pay by Visa/CAF card/Mastercard/Switch/Maestro (please delete as appropriate)

Card Number: _____ (Maestro only)

Valid from: _____ Expiry date: _____ Issue no: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Amount to raise £394,600

Please complete this form and return it to:
Centrepoint, Freepost ANG 2640, Colchester CO2 8BR.

In accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act, Centrepoint will use your personal data to process your donation and send you updates and appeals from time to time. If you do not want to receive this information please write to Supporter Care, Central House, 25 Camperdown Street, London E1 8DZ. We will never sell or share your details with other organisations.

giftaid it Under the Government's revised Gift Aid scheme, all donations made by UK tax payers are worth a quarter more.

I am a UK tax payer and would like Centrepoint to claim back the tax on all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I understand that I must have paid an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that will be reclaimed by all charities to which I donate in that tax year (at least 25p for each £1 donated). Date DD/MM/YY



Registered Charity No 292411 NAPI516B-03D



event in Europe when higher temperatures killed 70,000 people, are 10 times more likely than a decade ago. By the end of the century, parts of the Middle East and Africa will be hotter than humans can tolerate, making it almost impossible to do anything outdoors. Climate change is holding up progress towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. Drying river basins, falling crop yields and depleted fisheries raise the risk of food and water shortages, particularly among poorer rural populations, while rising seas are encroaching on low-lying islands.

This is just the beginning. The Greenland ice sheet is expected to collapse as temperatures climb higher. Scientists don't know exactly when but it's likely to be with less than 4°C of warming – which, based on how quickly we're emitting now, is where we're heading by the end of the century. The collapse wouldn't happen quickly, perhaps taking centuries or millennia. But once it starts, we're committed to a sea-level rise of several metres. If we stay on a path to 4°C, scientists predict there could be no Arctic sea ice left in summer in as little as 30 or 40 years.

The first line of defence against climate change is to cut our emissions. The easiest way to do that is to move away from using fossil fuels and towards something else for our energy. The technology already exists to get carbon-free energy from the wind, sun, nuclear power and even the waves and tides, and many countries are already doing this.

To tackle climate change, everyone needs to be on the same page. We have an opportunity in a few weeks' time when global leaders meet in Paris to get everyone facing the same direction – something that 20 years or so of international climate talks haven't managed to achieve.

But things are a bit different this time.

There's a finite amount of carbon the world can burn to stay below 2°C – and we've spent most of it already. But instead of trying to divide up the emissions pie and tell each country what size of piece they get, this time nations are deciding for themselves what they can bring to the table. A lot of the hard work has been done already. By the time the doors open in Paris, virtually all 195 countries in the UN will have pledged how much they plan to cut their own emissions in the next 15 years up to 2030.

These pledges are a big step forward but it's far from a done deal. Even if everyone sticks to their promises, it won't be enough to keep us under 2°C. The Paris conference will need to make sure countries can raise their ambition once they're out of the starting blocks. And while the next 15 years is critical, the temperature we end up with depends a lot on what countries do after 2030. Paris will be about doing enough to keep 2°C in our sights, not achieving it overnight.

While 2°C is the prize, it's by no means safe. It's just the limit we've set ourselves after decades of scientific research highlighting the need to rein climate change in. Scientifically speaking, there is no safe limit. We're already seeing climate change in action – and as the temperature rises, so do the risks. It's about how high we're collectively willing to let those risks go. When you're building a flood barrier, do you build it to withstand the smallest waves you're likely to see, or the biggest ones? It depends on how much you care about what's behind the wall.

Dr Roz Pidcock is science editor of *Carbon Brief*. carbonbrief.org



THIS MAN CHANGED THE WAY WE THINK...

Claude Lorius discovered man-made climate change. As Homer Simpson said, alcohol is the cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems. Arguably, no problem we face is bigger than that of climate change. It was whisky on the rocks that led to its identification.

In 1965, French glaciologist Lorius was leading a scientific expedition in Antarctica, which he had first visited in the 1950s. At the end of one day he and his team dropped some of the ice samples they had been collecting into their glasses. The ice, thousands of years old, released bubbles, and Lorius realised they contained samples of Earth's atmosphere, which had been frozen in time for millennia. If we could read these samples, he reasoned, we could learn about our history in a whole new way.

In subsequent expeditions, including in 1984, Lorius started drilling ice cores and analysing the gas content within them. The data charted the levels of CO₂ over hundreds of thousands of years, showing that it rose and fell in cycles. But it also proved that CO₂ levels today have increased beyond any level seen in the past. This was impacting the climate and, he believed, urgent action was needed.

Now aged 83, a film about Lorius' life and findings has been made by Luc Jacquet, director of the Oscar-winning *March of the Penguins*. Here, Lorius tells *The Big Issue* about where the Earth finds itself now.

Claude, at what point during the 1984 expedition did you first believe you had made a breakthrough that would change our understanding of how the climate works? Well, on the ground (or in the field) we certainly got the impression that we had taken some good samples and in the right places. But really, we had to take them back to the lab and analyse them to be able to know for sure that we hadn't messed up our main objective. And in fact it was only afterwards that we'd realised we'd gone above and beyond our main objective because at that time, and out in the field, we hadn't thought about all of the information that would emerge later on.

That was 30 years ago. Have you been proven right? After our first few publications that we did, notably in [the publication] *Nature*, well yes, I wouldn't change a thing. It's exactly that. Now, of course, there are still some sceptics, though there are fewer and fewer now, I should say. But yes, in general, what came out at that time is still very much valid today. >

Please help us find

Glyn Taylor - Spalding, Lincolnshire



Glyn went missing from Spalding, Lincolnshire on 11 July 2015. He was 21 at the time of his disappearance. Glyn is urged to call Missing People on 116 000 or email 116000@missingpeople.org.uk for advice and support, including the opportunity to send a message home in confidence.

Robert Luck - Northampton, Northamptonshire



Robert went missing from Northampton, Northamptonshire on 27 August 2015. He was 57 at the time of his disappearance. Robert we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

John Murphy - Dennistoun, Glasgow



John went missing from Dennistoun, Glasgow on 12 May 2015. He was 52 at the time of his disappearance. John is urged to call Missing People on 116 000 or email 116000@missingpeople.org.uk for advice and support, including the opportunity to send a message home in confidence.

Damien Nettles - Cowes, Isle of White



Damien went missing from Cowes, Isle of White on 02 November 1996. He was 16 at the time of his disappearance. Damien we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

Richard Hall - Hessle, Humberside



Richard went missing from Hessle, Humberside on 14 November 1998. He was 48 at the time of his disappearance. Richard is urged to call Missing People on 116 000 or email 116000@missingpeople.org.uk for advice and support, including the opportunity to send a message home in confidence.

Matthew Green - Sittingbourne, Kent



Matthew went missing from Sittingbourne, Kent on 09 April 2010. He was 25 at the time of his disappearance. Matthew we are here for you whenever you are ready; we can listen, talk you through what help you need, pass a message for you and help you to be safe.

Call or text 116 000
It's free, 24hr and confidential

Missing People would like to thank *The Big Issue* for publicising vulnerable missing people on this page.

Our free 116 000 number is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

missing people

Registered Charity No. 1020419

www.missingpeople.org.uk/help-us-find

I would tell everyone to climb this magical mountain



Registered charity no 219838

Stand on the roof of Africa and see things from a new angle.

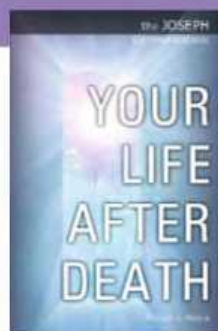
Trek Kilimanjaro, the world's highest freestanding mountain, for Mind so we can be there for anyone with a mental health problem.

To find out more and get your free info pack visit:

mind.org.uk/kili
community@mind.org.uk



The JOSEPH Communications



If you only read one spiritual book in your lifetime, make it this one.

OBLIVION OR OPPORTUNITIES AND WONDERS – just what, precisely, awaits beyond physical death?

Authored by 'Joseph' from an advanced reality 'beyond the veil', this internationally acclaimed book delivers arguably the most comprehensive, no-nonsense account ever written of what lies

ahead upon leaving this world behind.

Revealing, inspiring, comforting ... *Your Life After Death* dares to draw back the final curtain and demystify the mystery. Read it and you'll never look at the next life, or, indeed, this one, in quite the same way again.

'Thanks to Joseph I am having a fabulous old age – hope is one thing, knowledge another.'
Pauline Hutchins.

'Over the years I have read many books on this subject but none have been more informative and in-depth.'
Peggy Sivyer.

AVAILABLE FROM: www.josephspeaks.com or amazon.co.uk or send cheque for £16.95 (includes p&p) made payable to Band of Light Media Ltd. to: 10 Sparrable Row, Briercliffe, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 3QW.

eBook versions available from:

amazon.com

BARNES & NOBLE



You might be the first person to have to deal with sceptics. What were they saying then, have any of them changed their minds? Firstly, the word 'debate' is wrong, that implies I was looking for a consensus. No! I never debated with sceptics. Right away it was full on combat/war. And yes, there still remain a few sceptics here and there. But no one's interested in these past arguments. Now, when we see people in higher power paying attention to climate change, it's because we were partially responsible for uncovering the problem.

Our climate in northern Europe doesn't have major changes. Does this make it more difficult to make the general public believe? It's very hard for people to be able to grasp that the climate evolves. What people see is today's weather, tomorrow's and the season's weather. But as for the evolution and how, on average, the climate changes, neither the public nor I can comprehend that at face value. Especially since we are in one tiny corner of a vast Earth, in a vast hemisphere, the northern hemisphere, and so, no!

And so, do you think this is why the public have a hard time understanding what is happening? That's your point of view. For me, I understand that when I hear the French president saying 'we need to do something about climate change', it's because he knows it won't cause any problems with his voters, and that the public have an idea of what is going on. Same goes with the American president, Obama. We know he's on top of it. So, when we see authoritative figures like these talking about it, at least we know they will do something about it.

Could climate change be cyclical rather than man-made? No. It's clear that the multi-millennial changes are linked to the Earth's position in relation to the sun. The Earth orbits around the sun, so, this cycle relates to longer periods of hot and cold climates. Now, this timescale has nothing to do with what happens in a human's life cycle. It has nothing to do with the climate that we'll live through over a few decades. So, the big cycles are natural but on timescales that have nothing to do with a man's life cycle. The alternating periods of global warming and cooling, attributed to variations in the energy emitted by the sun resulting from the Earth's position, correspond to significant fluctuations in the composition of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Naturally, it would be impossible to attribute this yo-yo effect to human activity. Fluctuations in CO₂ levels are regulated by the oceans through a variety of physical, chemical and biological processes. Living organisms do play a role in climatic changes. For hundreds of thousands of years, the temperatures and the concentrations of aerosols and greenhouse gases have varied between relatively constant minimum and maximum levels. The Earth's climate is naturally self-regulating, varying between these two well-defined stable states. But we must admit that current greenhouse gas levels are unprecedented, higher than anything measured for hundreds of thousands of years, and directly linked to man's impact on the atmosphere.

Ice and the Sky is in cinemas and on demand from December 11. iceandthesky.co.uk

WHY THE CLIMATE HYSTERIA?

Richard Lindzen says CO₂ is not the enemy. It's bigger than this...

Recent research encourages those of us who question popular alarm over allegedly man-made global warming. The climate has been changing since the Earth was formed. This normal course is now taken as evidence of doom. Individuals and organisations highly vested in disaster scenarios relentlessly attack those who do not share their beliefs. The attacks have taken a threatening turn.

It's worth noting that all predictions of warming since the onset of the last warming episode of 1978-98 – the only period the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) attempts to attribute to carbon dioxide emissions – have greatly exceeded what has been observed; a much reduced, essentially harmless climate response to increased atmospheric carbon dioxide. Rarely noted is the obvious fact that warming per se is not catastrophic and, if modest, likely to be beneficial.

There is experimental support for the increased importance of variations in solar radiation on climate and a renewed awareness of the importance of natural unforced climate variability (associated with long period circulations of the ocean that exchange heat between the surface and the deep), which are largely absent in current climate models. There is observational evidence from several independent studies that 'water vapour feedback', essential to amplifying the relatively weak impact of carbon dioxide alone on Earth temperatures, is cancelled by cloud processes.

There are claims that extreme weather – hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods – may be due to global warming; data shows no increase in their number or intensity. The IPCC acknowledges a lack of any evident relation between extreme weather and climate, though allowing that with sufficient effort some relation might be uncovered. World leaders proclaim climate change is our greatest problem, demonising carbon dioxide. Yet atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide have been vastly higher through most of Earth's history. Climates both warmer and colder than the present have coexisted with these higher levels.

Climatologists before recent hysteria referred to warm periods as 'climate optima'. Currently elevated levels of carbon dioxide have contributed to increased agricultural productivity. Yet world leaders embark on costly policies with no capacity to replace fossil fuels but enrich crony capitalists at public expense, increasing costs for all and restricting access to electricity's immense benefits for the world's poorest populations.

Billions of dollars are poured into studies supporting climate alarm, trillions to overthrowing the energy economy. It is unsurprising that great efforts are made to ramp up hysteria, even as the case for climate alarm disintegrates. In the US there are efforts to criminalise questioning of climate alarm, despite the IPCC making no endorsement of catastrophism. Policies premised on catastrophism are damaging science, the environment and the well-being of the world's poorest. **TC**

Richard Lindzen is Professor Emeritus of atmospheric sciences at MIT and a distinguished senior fellow of the Cato Institute. From *The Wall Street Journal*.



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

What's the real story behind the 'Calais crisis' headlines? Edward Jonkler crossed the Channel to document the reason people are risking their lives to come to Britain

Twenty miles from our shores is a refugee camp known as The Jungle. It is closer to London than Manchester or Birmingham. The Jungle has become a symbol of Europe's refugee crisis – chaotic, apparently permanent and subject to bad-tempered debate.

I decided the only way to discover – honestly – what has drawn so many people here (it's estimated the population of the camp is 3,000) was to go myself and ask them. So I loaded up a van with donations from my friends and neighbours and drove down there.

I met people from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Syria and Iraq. I met PhD students, lorry

drivers, government officials, actors, engineers and nurses – all of whom are eager to find work and restart their lives. Most were happy to talk, anxious to explain they are not looking for a handout or benefits. Many were embarrassed at their circumstances and apologetic for their living conditions.

Pro-British graffiti is scrawled throughout the camp. The UK is their main destination because many have relatives already there. The refugees look to the UK as a kind of promised land, the last hope that there is another place where things will be better – a hope that has kept them going since they started long and difficult journeys.

The Jungle started as a temporary



Ahmed owns a small shop, one of between 15 and 20 in the camp. He has been in The Jungle for a few months, having fled his home when the Taliban started approaching his town.

Maqsood: "When I left Afghanistan I was an official at the health ministry. It's much harder to cross to the UK now, so many people have stopped trying and don't know where to go. I have a wife and two young children in Afghanistan, and I worry about what will happen to them."



staging post for crossing attempts to the UK but it has become a semi-permanent place, as the French authorities have cracked down on people trying to make the journey to Britain. Some refugees have given up trying to cross the border because so many attempts have resulted in death or injury – people jumping on to trains from bridges or being crushed by lorries.

You can see the change in the more permanent wooden structures springing up across the camp: a makeshift church, makeshift mosques, several shops, an Afghan restaurant, all opened by the most enterprising or whoever has enough money left after their journey to buy equipment and goods. Although the different

nationalities have tended to camp in separate areas, many are now working together to build huts and share materials.

But the sense of optimism in the camp is fading. There is a struggle to stay warm and dry as winter sets in. People are starting to get sick, especially the children. Volunteers from charitable groups like L'Auberge Des Migrants and Médecins Sans Frontières are working in difficult circumstances and don't have the support of government. They organise the food and clothes donations coming in on a regular basis but they also welcomed donations of non-prescription medicines – cough medicine in particular. The migrants believe European governments want to do

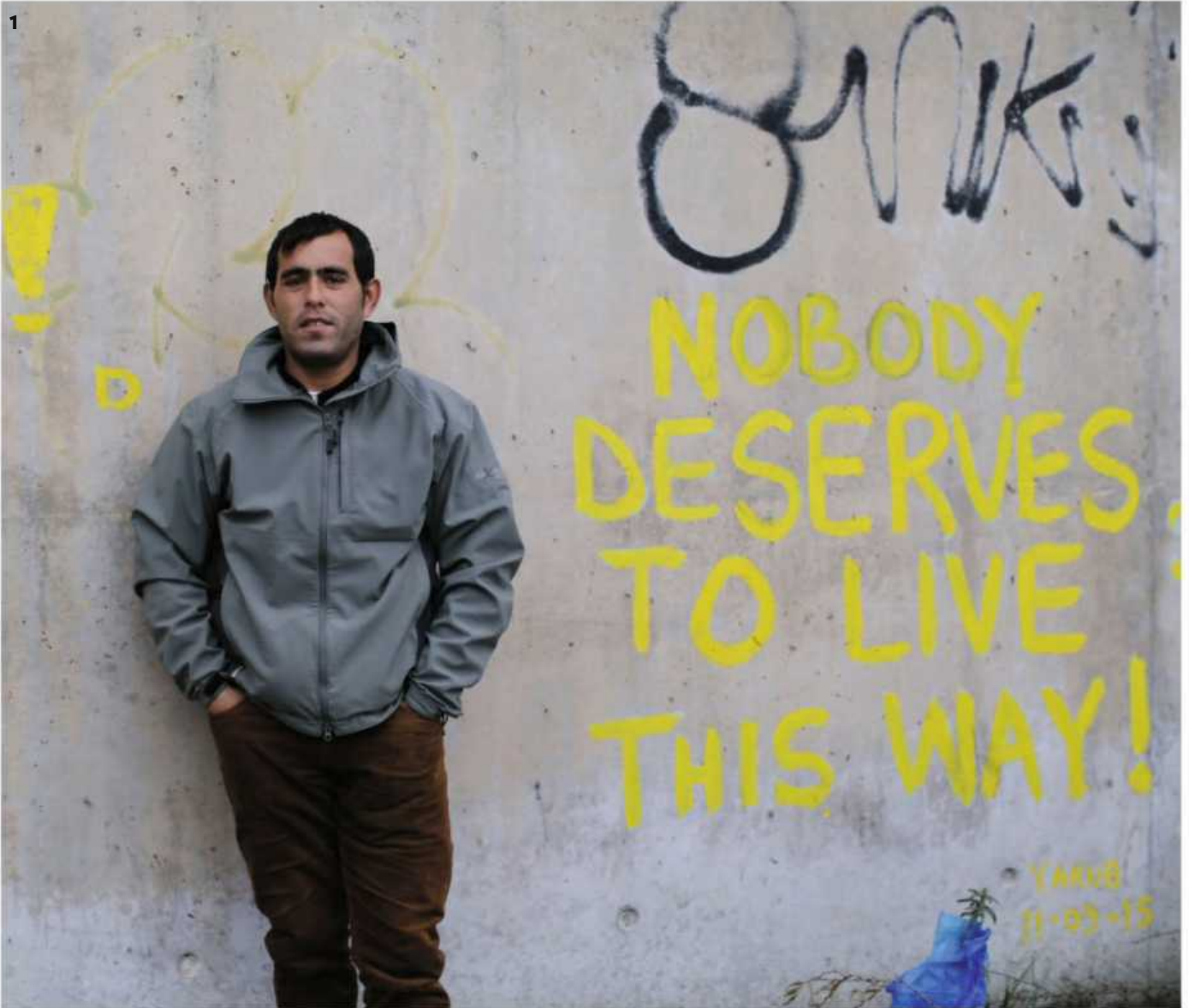
as little as possible in the hope that they simply give up, leave and become someone else's problem.

Many of the refugees have travelled on foot for thousands of miles, and showed me injuries and disfigurements as a result of these journeys. Being robbed, extorted by smugglers, beaten by authorities and losing friends and relatives along the route were all common occurrences.

I asked a Sudanese man named Abdul why the camp is called The Jungle.

"Because we are animals," he told me. "We are not considered human. We have no papers, we have no recognition of our status. I must get to the UK or I will die trying."

SEEKING REFUGE



SEEKING REFUGE



1. Saifullah: "I was a labourer for the American and British armies in Afghanistan. After the Americans left it wasn't safe for me. I have papers from the colonel in charge of an American base thanking me for my work. I live on the outskirts of the camp in the middle of a rubbish pile. My brother lives near Ilford, I am hoping to reach him."

2. An Afghan restaurant has been set up in the French camp.

3. Mohammed, from Damascus, Syria: "I don't want to show my face but you can show my feet. I walked for days and days and they were badly injured – they swelled up. I don't want to live in war. I want to have a family. I want to start a business. I want to buy a car."

4. Hussein (with wife Nasra and son Ali): "We lived in Syria. Our house was destroyed by a bomb and we had nowhere to go. I was a truck driver and spent \$6400 (£4,300) to get us in a boat to Greece. I have brothers in the UK. My cousin tried to get on to a truck in Calais and slipped. He was crushed and died. Both my children are very sick and the French government doesn't provide anything."



5. Despairing refugees praying at the entrance to a makeshift church.

6. Nazari: "I was living in Kunduz. The Taliban took over and the police station was closed down. Then I knew I had to leave. It took me nearly six months to get here. I came through Iran and would walk for days at a time. In Afghanistan I was a painter and then a mechanic. It's too dangerous to try and cross to the UK now, so I don't know what I will do."

7. Safi (in the middle): "Before it was okay here but in the last four weeks the border is really closed so nobody is trying to cross any more. I came through Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, to France. At least the shops in the camp have what we need."



‘I TOOK A FEW STEPS AND PAUSED. I TOOK A BREATH, PULLED MY THOUGHTS TOGETHER’

Rick Clement died twice after both his legs were blown off by an IED in Afghanistan. On Remembrance Sunday he left his wheelchair to lay a wreath in memory of friends. Andrew Burns was there to mark this incredible journey

Last weekend, Rick Clement was the toast of the nation as he walked in public for the first time since losing his legs during the war in Afghanistan.

It was a poignant occasion for the former British Army sergeant. He was told he would never walk again after he was cut in half when he stepped on a hidden Taliban bomb while on patrol in Helmand Province in 2010.

After months of gruelling preparation, Rick, 35, left his wheelchair behind to stand on two mechanical legs to lay a wreath at Blackpool Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

“It was very overwhelming,” said Rick, who also served in Northern Ireland and Iraq during a distinguished 14-year military career. “I didn’t expect it to be as emotional as it turned out to be.

“It was like nothing I had ever experienced before. It felt calm then it just hit me. After I took a few steps, I had to pause, take a breath and pull my thoughts together.”

The Big Issue was there with Rick in his hometown. We have documented his incredible story since he appeared on

the front cover of last November’s award-winning Remembrance issue.

More than 1000 people gathered at the Remembrance service, with Rick arriving to a moving applause.

Shortly before 11am, he stepped from his wheelchair and, with his two physiotherapists Rachael and Cathy by his side, completed the short, testing walk before local councillor and fellow veteran Ian Coleman placed the wreath by the cenotaph.

There was genuine awe and admiration among onlookers, with many moved to tears by Rick’s determination.

After the ceremony, he was the pride of Blackpool.

Hundreds waited in torrential rain along Blackpool pier to say well done, to shake Rick’s hand, to take countless selfies – while millions viewed footage of his walk after it was beamed across national news and went viral online.

Despite his celebrity status, Rick said his thoughts were firmly in Afghanistan, where he was injured and four of his comrades from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment – Rocco, Taggi, Jordan and Coupes – were killed in conflict.

“This was the most poignant way for me to honour my friends,” he said.

“I’m sure they would’ve been looking down on me, very proud of what I’d achieved. In fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if they were looking down hoping I’d fall so they could get a good laugh.”

Watching nearby were a number of Rick’s family, friends and former colleagues, including mum Kay and dad Graeme, and one of the medics who helped save his life on that fateful day, former RAF nurse Hayley Vandyback.

“Seeing Rick has been incredibly emotional and I’m so proud,” Kay said. “This is the first time I’ve seen him do this as he wanted me to see for the first time on Remembrance Day.”

“It was a special day for me, especially to share it with the people that have helped me get to where I am today,” Rick added.

“I was lucky that I made it home. I still get to be with my family and live my life to the full. I owe it to everyone that didn’t make it home to do just that.” **TBI**

Main image: Rick with his physios Rachael and Cathy. Below: laying a wreath by the cenotaph. Right: We featured Rick on a recent cover (top) before Remembrance Sunday; last year’s award-winning cover



@andrewburns49



Photos: Dave Nelson

#CHARITYBEGANATHOME



SENDING REAL HELP
for 70 years

SEND. REAL. HELP. NOW

Families fleeing the fighting in Syria face a daily struggle to survive. Your donation could help send a CARE package of food, water and blankets.

CARE International has been helping people living in poverty and responding to emergencies since 1945.

Text CARE to 83010 to donate £10

www.careinternational.org.uk/carepackage

Texts cost £10 plus standard network rate. CARE International UK will receive 100% of your gift. CARE might contact you occasionally with updates or appeals. Text END to 83010 to stop future SMS. For more information about our work call 020 7091 6100. CARE International UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (292506).



‘JESS SAVED MY LIFE AND I MISS HER TERRIBLY. BUT THE COMMUNITY HAS COMFORTED ME’

Big Issue vendor **Ralph Church**, 54, says thanks to everyone who rallied round him after his dog died tragically

My dog Jess and I had been on quite an adventure together in the past year, sailing round bits of the south coast. I got Jess in Bangor, North Wales, just over two years ago, where my customers had helped me save up for a little Wayfarer dinghy. I worked as a motorcycle courier in London for 14 years, so I seem to be able to turn my hand to fixing things up – bikes, boats or anything else.

So we went sailing together. We set sail from Falmouth last spring and spent a couple of months getting to know the dinghy’s capabilities. It had long been a dream of mine and it worked out so well. We got as far as Portsmouth, then down to Plymouth, and got to Truro to pick up magazines so I could keep selling in coastal towns.

Funnily enough there were one or two times I managed to sell the magazine to people in yachts. They’d see me and yell: “Ahoy, Ralph, pull up over here and we’ll buy a magazine from you.” So I must be the first Big Issue vendor selling on the sea.

Anyway, we ended up back on dry land for the winter in St Marychurch, on the edge of Torquay. I then managed to save up enough – £1000 – for a small yacht. So Jess and I would go out on forays for a few weeks and then come back to St Marychurch. We found it the most amazing, welcoming community here.

Sadly, Jess was killed in a road accident recently. I left her on my pitch outside the Co-op for a few minutes,

left her lying on her blanket, as I’ve done plenty of times, knowing she’s quite happy to wait patiently for me to pop round the corner. But this particular morning something must have scared her. I think she thought the safest place was underneath the bus, and unfortunately the driver didn’t see her go under.

It’s been a difficult time – I loved her. Everybody here loved her. She was awesome – just so friendly. The perfect dog. We were both part of the community here, and there were a lot of lovely flowers and cards left on my pitch after she died. I’ve had people crying on my shoulder – they’ve comforted me and I’ve comforted them. I’ve had an amazing, humbling outpouring of support and love. The community here has raised around £1000 for me – the Co-op, Babbs Café and a lovely lady called Angela started collections.

I’m overwhelmed. I’m not quite sure what to do. I’d like to sell the boat, get the money together and put it toward finding somewhere to live here in St Marychurch. I’d like to settle down here, start a little business and perhaps give something back to this community that has done so much for me. Around the coast at Torquay is beautiful – there are some wonderful places to camp out, wonderful beaches and woods and places to explore.

It’s not easy being on my own without Jess. I miss her terribly. She saved my life during a tough time. But once I get through Christmas, I might consider getting another dog. There are a lot of dogs on their own in need of a loving owner. **ITB**



Ralph selling The Big Issue in St Marychurch

Photo: Steve Haywood

Beginning with **stillness**
my **faith** becomes **action**.



Find out **more**
www.quaker.org.uk



Human Writes

Human Writes is a long established and internationally respected humanitarian organisation befriending prisoners on Death Row in the USA through letter writing. Over 3000 prisoners are currently held in harsh, lonely conditions, and letters from the outside world are often their only contact while they await their execution dates.

In the words of a prisoner *"Human Writes brought our paths together and for that I will be forever grateful. I now have someone to share my hopes and fears with and I know that when my time comes, someone will care."* And in the words of a UK penfriend *"My penfriend's strength and positive attitude in such inhumane conditions are a real example to me and a timely reminder of my own blessings when I get upset about minor problems."*

If you would like to know more about joining our organisation or becoming a penfriend, please send an SAE to

Human Writes

4 Lacey Grove, Wetherby, West Yorks, LS22 6RL
e-mail humanwritesuk@yahoo.co.uk
or visit our website at www.humanwrites.org

MANDOWN

NOUN. / ONE OF THE TWELVE MEN
WHO TAKES THEIR LIFE EVERY DAY
IN THIS COUNTRY.

#MANDICTIONARY



KEEPING MEN ALIVE BY TALKING

To donate, text CALM15 £3 or £5 to 70070
www.thecalmzone.net

CALM is a registered charity in England & Wales no 1110621 & Scotland no SCD44347

THE ENLIGHTENMENT

BOOKS/FILM/TV/MUSIC/GEEK

ALPHA MALES

A CALMING INFLUENCE

A disturbing fact of modern life in the UK is that suicide is the biggest killer of men aged 20 to 45. To remove stigma and encourage dialogue, CALM (the Campaign Against Living Miserably) have organised *ALPHA*, a photo exhibition challenging alpha male stereotypes and exploring the complexities of mental health.

One featured photographer is Scarlet Page (daughter of Led Zeppelin's Jimmy). Her portraits of musicians include rapper Professor Green (right), who recently spoke out about his father's suicide and his own battle with depression.

► *ALPHA* runs from November 20-27 at The Print Space gallery in London. Admission is free. theprintspace.co.uk



BOOKS



Can a translator ever be an invisible presence on the page or is their voice always there?

AYELET GUNDAR-GOSHEN

Lost in translation

In this extract from an anthology about literature crossing continents, a writer finds his story has somehow grown legs

He opened the book which, though it bore his name, contained not a single word he could read, and stared at the passages marked with a yellow highlighter pen. He could easily have asked her to tell him what she had chosen. Her English was good enough to answer him. But he preferred to guess – looked at the woman opposite him and tried to imagine which, of all the lines he had written, she had liked well enough to colour yellow and read in front of the audience. And she, perhaps sensing his scrutinising glance, said: And most of all, I liked Lily.

That was strange because the writer had never written about any Lily. He was certain of that. Anger now crawled in his throat like a centipede. It was clear that the woman standing before him had not bothered to read his book. She had curled her hair and carefully chosen a blouse for the occasion but she had not bothered to read his book. Or perhaps (and here he suddenly felt sorry for her, noticing the price tag protruding from her blouse, revealing how excited she had been when she left her home), perhaps she had read it and was simply confused. Lily and Shelly weren't such different names, and maybe in her language they were the same. He was still deciding whether to be angry

or forgiving when she began pulling him towards the stage. Now, speaking in her own language, she was suddenly animated by a certain charm that the English had blocked, and when she finally began to read from the book, the writer was already convinced that the flush he now saw on her cheeks came from an internal flame, not from externally applied blush. She began reading, and he fought against the urge to scan the faces of the audience to see their reactions to his words which now, in translation, were utterly foreign to him. Instead of looking at the audience, he stared into space with an expression that he hoped would appear to be full of meaning and restrained dignity. He was indeed in need of all the restrained dignity he could muster when, a moment later, he heard the name Lily.

Horried, the writer listened intently to the rest of the paragraph. Present were Moshe and Avi and Shelly, all the people he himself had invited to be in his book. But there was also Lily. Her name appeared every few lines, rising above the other words that were in a language he did not understand. It was inconceivable. Here he was, sitting in a conference hall in a foreign city at his book launch, and some Lily was traipsing through his novel,

uninvited, but definitely present, so much so that this woman, with her curled hair and new blouse, preferred her to the legal residents of the book. It was infuriating. It was inconceivable.

Suddenly the writer realised that he knew exactly who was responsible: Lily Sigalovitch, who had translated his book into this cold European language. A slender bespectacled young woman with a fig-red mouth whose perfection in the middle of her face merely emphasised the ordinariness of the features surrounding it. The writer had met her only once, at the conclusion of a conference at the museum. Several moments later, a number of enthusiastic members of the audience had gathered, eager to express their admiration, but Lily Sigalovitch did not let him go, saying she wanted to take the opportunity to talk to him about the novel, about his male point of view. The writer, barely able to hide his impatience in any case, detected a note of criticism in her words. One newspaper had already called him phallogentric, and also, one of the guys. They suggested that the book would have been much better with a strong female character in it. It was one thing to read such nonsense in a newspaper but to hear that drivel from a woman who translated into some godforsaken language? He suggested they speak another time, and turned away from her even before she had time to ask for his address. After that encounter, she'd called him twice – the publisher had given her his number – and he'd spoken to her briefly, promising to get back to her, which he never did. In fact, he'd forgotten her completely – her mousey appearance, the fig-mouth whose beauty mocked the face it was stuck in, even her name – until this very moment.

Beside him on the stage, the presenter once again said the name Lily with the joy people feel when they read a favourite passage in a novel. Listening to her, he recalled how surprised he had been at the success of the book in this country. Readers shook his hand, their eyes moist. And now he suddenly knew that it was because of her. Because of Lily Sigalovitch. His anger turned to bafflement – what had she done to his story? What secret ingredient had she added that made it all work?



From *Lily* by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen (translated by Sondra Silverston), an extract from *Life from Elsewhere: Journeys Through World Literature*, Pushkin Press in association with English PEN



5 BOOKS CHILDREN MIGHT LIKE AF HARROLD

There are no five books you *should* read before the age of 12. You *should* be free to read whatever you like, and anyone who tells you otherwise is a fool. So here are five random things I've enjoyed...

1. THE PHOENIX

This isn't a book, it's a weekly comic. It's funny, beautiful, silly, intelligent, bonkers, serious, sad and wonderful – filled with cartoons from some of our very finest writers and illustrators.

2. MR GUM Andy Stanton

Each one is a surreal-ish adventure filled with more jokes than a packed lunch box, all brought to life by the jagged beauty of David Tazzyman's drawings.

3. NOBODY SAW NO ONE Steve Tasane

Two boys run away from the children's home where dreadful things have happened. How do they survive on the streets? How do they get anyone to believe the truth? Amazing stuff.

4. BOOK OF ABSOLUTELY USELESS LISTS Philip Ardagh

Twenty things I learned about Australia and Australians from watching *Neighbours* and *Home and Away*; a dozen different uses for a pet dragon; a cluster of famous alleged UFO sightings... and so on.

5. THE NOVELISATION OF YOUR FAVOURITE FILM OR TV SHOW

I loved reading all the *Star Wars* books, for example Alan Dean Foster's *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* (set between *A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back*). You pick a film you like, and read around it.

The Imaginary, by AF Harrold, is out now (Bloomsbury, £7.99)



REVIEWS

NO MORE HEROES / THE LAST TOUR OF ARCHIE FORBES

Fallen idol

Good novelists are experts at creating empathy. The reader doesn't have to like a character or feel sympathy for them but if there's empathy between the reader and the character, the writer is on the right track.

It's easy to create empathy for nice characters – but nice characters are boring. It's much harder, a much more nuanced writing skill, to create empathy with deeply flawed characters, characters who have done wrong, who have problems and faults, and who struggle to do the right thing.

Both this week's books succeed admirably in this respect. First up we have **No More Heroes** by Stephen Thompson. The plot revolves around Londoner Simon Weekes who is on a train just as the terrorist attacks of July 7, 2005 take place. Caught up in the disaster, Simon saves two other passengers and becomes a hero in the media afterwards. However, Simon has a dark past and shirks from the limelight – but the tabloids eventually dig up his darkest secrets, turning his life upside down.

No More Heroes is framed like a thriller and, while it's thrilling enough, it's really a complex and subtle character study, an investigation into redemption, a look at the struggle between good versus evil within us all, and whether we can ever really forgive ourselves for past misdemeanours.

Thompson cleverly constructs his story in two parts, the first driven by action and mystery, the second delving deep into the social environment that can lead well-intentioned people into terrible situations. The depiction of life growing up in Hackney as the son of Jamaican immigrant parents is wonderfully executed, sharp and incisive, tender when it needs to be, shocking at other times. The sense of fate stalking



Illustration: Dom McKenzie

Simon is palpable throughout the narrative and, by the end, the reader is on tenterhooks about the protagonist's fate.

Can his new life be reconciled with his past? Can the people he loves forgive his terrible crimes? This is a novel that runs deep, one that pokes around in the reader's moral maze, and is thought-provoking and unsettling in the best of ways.

Our second empathetic novel is **The Last Tour of Archie Forbes** by Victoria Hendry. The man of the title is a veteran of active service in Afghanistan who suffers from extreme post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on his return to Britain. The book opens with Archie homeless, having lost his family,

job and much of his self-respect – but this novel is far from being a one-dimensional misery-fest.

Like Thompson's novel, this is a character study framed as a thriller, and Archie is a brilliantly engaging focal point, wonderfully funny at times, utterly infuriating at others. Hendry has clearly done her research into PTSD and the circumstances in which veterans find themselves but she wears that expert knowledge lightly in a narrative that subtly sucks the reader into Archie's world and makes us really care.

When Archie's art therapist goes missing, he worries that he's become the prime suspect in the abduction, and while that storyline does generate some intrigue, Hendry is more concerned with creating a fully rounded, three-dimensional character, something she does without you really noticing until you're hooked.

Neither of these books has that flash-bang quality of some more commercial fiction but they replace that showy stuff with real depth, heart and soul. More power to the authors.



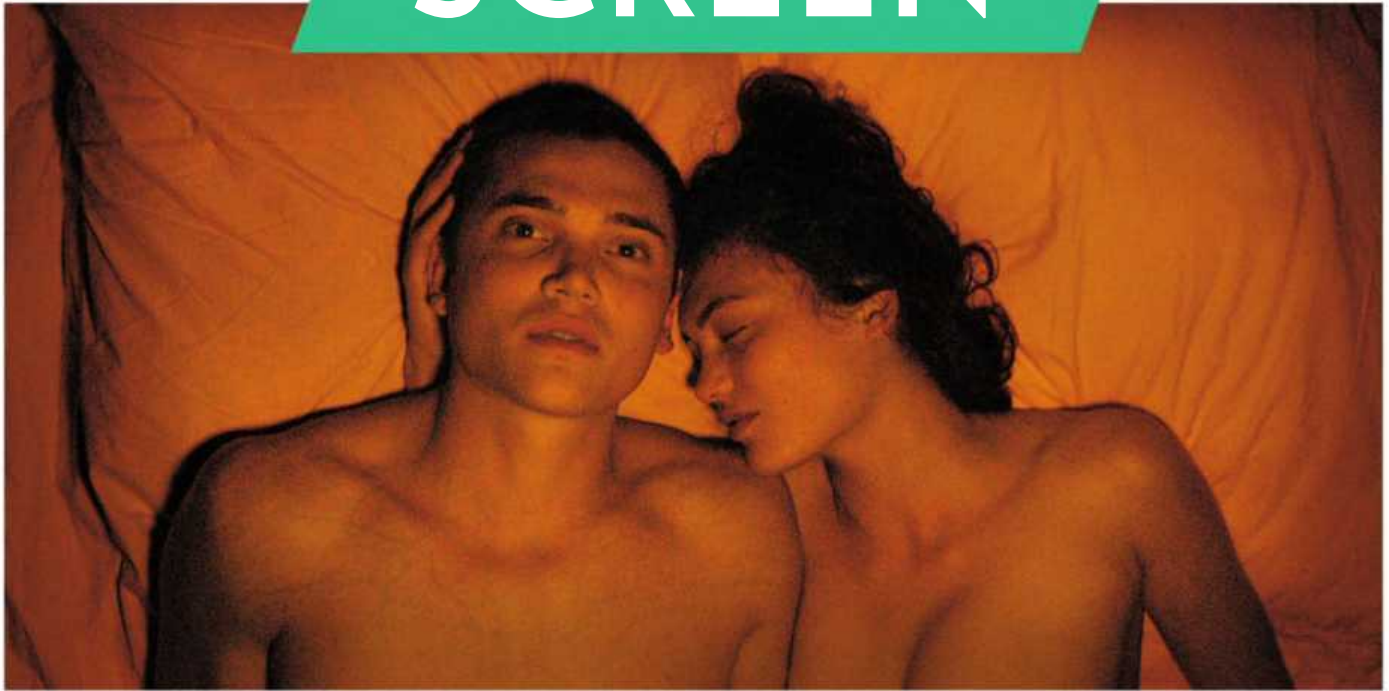
No More Heroes

Stephen Thompson, Jacaranda, £7.99

The Last Tour of Archie Forbes

Victoria Hendry, Saraband, £8.99

Doug Johnstone @doug_johnstone



FILM / EDWARD LAWRENSON

Naked truth

There's more to this than sex, as director Gaspar Noe exposes memories of a failing relationship

A young man and woman are in bed together, and from above we observe the loose knot that their entwined bodies form. This is the first image of *Love*, a film that arrives here with some advance hoo-ha over its sexual content. Well, it's not long before *Love* declares its explicit and unembarrassed attitude towards sex. In that opening sequence she is stroking his aroused member, and he's repaying the gesture by touching her. Classical music plays on the soundtrack, and as it reaches a climax, so does he. With so much cinema subject to digital manipulation, this is a moment of unmistakably fleshy reality, sticky and spontaneous, as unfaked as it (sorry) comes.

This scene reportedly prompted mocking applause when the film premiered at Cannes this year. That reaction testifies to the uneasy response sex on screen still generates (despite the inclusion of hardcore action in mainstream arthouse films for years now). *Love* is directed by Gaspar Noe, a film-maker with a canny appreciation for the marketing value of provocation: the violence in his 2002 film *Irreversible* was stomach churning but the controversy didn't hurt at the box office either.

So yes, there's a lot of sex in *Love* (in tumescent 3D!) – and, yes, it has got the film talked about (look, I'm doing it now!). But it would be wrong, as some have done, to see this as sensationalist. For all its bodily candour, *Love* is a tender, almost introspective drama, a bluntly honest look at a couple's deteriorating relationship. Sex plays a big part in their life, for sure – but the film is as unflinching in its portrayal of their changing emotional states.

The man and woman from that opening scene are Murphy (Karl Glusman), an American film student in Paris, and his French girlfriend Electra (Aomi Muyock). The relationship ended a couple of years ago, and Murphy is now living in a cramped apartment with his young son and partner Omi (Klara Kristin). Murphy has just received news that Electra is missing, and when Omi and their kid go out, he stays home to brood over his memories with Electra.

A much more austere film than his thrillingly baroque *Enter the Void*, most of the film consists of Murphy's flashbacks. In featureless cafes and airless apartments, his

relationship with Electra develops: from the first blaze of mutual attraction to the bitter rows over Murphy's infidelity at the end.

It's an intimate, even claustrophobic view of a couple drifting apart (with sincere, occasionally hysterical central performances). Alongside their moments of closeness and acrimony, there's the sex, often symptomatic of their mood together: it is loving, angry, tender, violent and 'performed' by the actors with the same abandon they bring to their emotional scenes.

Perhaps the on-camera sex, involving good-looking young things like Glusman and Muyock, is somewhat idealised – and you might say Noe is teasing us, giving the turn-on of porn an arthouse legitimacy. But then it's also how Murphy chooses to remember his time with Electra. This is sex, cast in the retrospective glow of romantic longing. If you find it impossibly glamorised, then I think that's the point.

Love is bound to wind some people up, and it is overlong and a little clunky. But it is also a serious, honest, nakedly earnest piece of film-making. To those expecting it to live up to the controversy – sorry folks, the film, to its credit, is going to disappoint.



An absurd, appalling and eccentric Crimean portrait

FINAL REEL...

The Russian Woodpecker starts out as an engaging documentary about a Ukrainian performance

artist who hatches a bizarre conspiracy theory about the Chernobyl nuclear accident but is then caught up in the 2014 Maidan uprising. A darkly eccentric – at once absurd and appalling – portrait of Ukraine's troubled relationship with Russia that remains sadly all too timely.



We'll be your Santa

ENTER OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT COMPETITIONS



WIN!

£800 OF BRILLIANT BOX-SETS



'Tis the season

to catch up on those hot new comedies, tasty thrillers and classic crime dramas you never got the chance to settle down with. And now here's your chance to stock up for winter, and get some fantastic Christmas gift ideas. We've got your very best winter watching sorted, with this outstanding bumper festive package of no less than 16

storming box-sets worth nearly £800! One lucky winner can lock the door and cosy up with these beauties on DVD:

Broadchurch 1&2, The Complete Foyle's War, Dixon of Dock Green 1-3, Inspector George Gently Complete Series 1-7, The Liver Birds Collections 1&2, Z-Cars Collections 1&2, Detectorists Complete Series 1&2, The Good Life Complete Collection, Line of Duty Complete Series 1&2, To the Manor Born Complete Collection, The Complete Inspector Montalbano, The Complete Wild at Heart, Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell, Partners in Crime, Boy Meets Girl and Pompidou.

These box-sets are available from RLJ Entertainment's Acorn DVD Label. For more great Christmas DVD gift ideas, go to acorn dvd.com/christmas/dvd-boxed-sets

USE KEYWORDS: 16 BOX-SETS
SEE BELOW FOR ENTRY DETAILS

A MINION-TASTIC CHRISTMAS

Tumblin' Stuart falls forward and back but somehow always makes it back on his feet. Never one to let a little stumble bring him down, Stuart talks (in his original MINIONS film voice), laughs and never needs a Band-Aid!

When all-new Talking Minions Kevin, Stuart and Bob unite, fun is sure to follow. Move each character's head left to right, forward and back – and their eyes open, close and look around. All three Talking Minions have moving arms and soft bodies. Each reacts with its own exclusive interactive accessory included! (Each sold separately.)

Rock 'N Roll Stuart and Sing 'N Dance Bob are true rock stars. Check out Stuart as he 'plays' his electric guitar and watch Bob move and groove to the beat! Each comes with standalone and interactive modes – or see them rock out together. Both wear soft plastic goggles and come with talkback features in their original film voices!

The Minions are available from all good retailers, and we have teamed up with Thinkway Toys so one lucky winner can enjoy a Miniontastic Christmas with: a Tumblin' Stuart, Rock 'N Roll Stuart, Sing 'N Dance Bob, Talking Minion Kevin Interactive Action Figure, Talking Minion Bob Interactive Action Figure and a Talking Minion Stuart Interactive Action Figure. Find out more about them at thinkwaytoys.com

USE KEYWORD: MINIONS
SEE RIGHT FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ENTER

minions

Minions is a trademark and copyright of Universal Studios. Licensed by Universal Studios Licensing LLC. All rights reserved.



Use the **KEYWORD** for the competition you want to enter as your subject and email: competitions@bigissue.com or post them to: **The Big Issue, 43 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 1HW.**
Closing date is November 24.

Include **OPT OUT** on your entry if you would prefer not to receive future info or updates from The Big Issue. We won't give your details to any third party. T&Cs available at bigissue.com

BATMAN AND SUPERMAN SQUARE OFF & A 'CINEMATIC UNIVERSE' FOR CALL OF DUTY



Just because there's going to be a lot of superheroes in next year's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, it's not going to be "overstuffed" insists its producer. Charles Roven has assured fans it's still going to focus on Batman and Superman, in spite of also including the likes of Wonder Woman, Aquaman and possibly The Flash.

A videogame of *Jurassic World* had been scheduled to arrive this year but was cancelled. Deleted material of the project has appeared online, although no reason for its cancellation has surfaced. Still, we've got LEGO: *Jurassic World*.



Talking of videogames, *Call of Duty* is next to jump to the big screen. A "cinematic universe" based on the first-person shooter franchise is planned. The first film could be as early as 2018.

Paramount has confirmed a third *SpongeBob Squarepants* film will be arriving, in February 2019. Expect it to be utterly sane, just like the last one. Ahem!

DEN OF GEEK!
denofgeek.com

Photo: Rex Features

The beautiful game

Jonny Owen, director of football documentary *I Believe In Miracles*, celebrates a team that gave hope to a city. Interview: Adrian Lobb

When Brian Clough took over as Nottingham Forest manager on January 6, 1975, the team was 13th place in the second division. In his second full season, Forest won promotion. The following season they won the First Division and League Cup. In 1979 they won the first of two consecutive European Cups and began a record 42-game unbeaten run in the league.

In January 2015, Nottingham Forest again stood 13th in the second tier of English football. Could they win the Premier League, two Champions Leagues and two League Cups by the end of 2019-20? Of course not – sorry, Forest fans. As director Jonny Owen (pictured above), whose film reunites Clough's great Forest team, explains, it would require a miracle.

"We have to celebrate Brian Clough and Peter Taylor's team because this will never happen again. There was something so romantic about Nottingham Forest seemingly coming from nowhere. It was a real underdog story, and everyone loves an underdog.

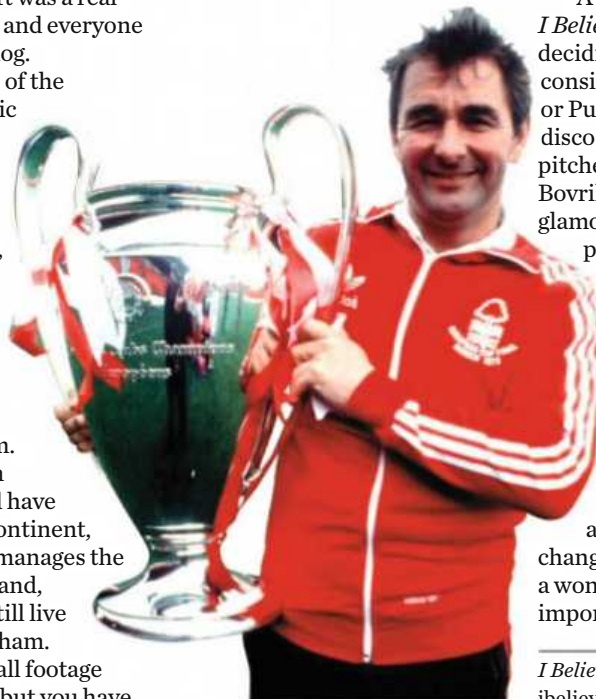
"To have one of the most charismatic and telegenic managers to ever grace the game, at this club, in this city, is something to celebrate. Brian Clough was here.

"It was an undertaking to reunite the team. David Needham and Larry Lloyd have retired on the continent, Martin O'Neill manages the Republic of Ireland, but about half still live around Nottingham. The great football footage is already there but you have

to tell the story in a compelling way, use the music and social history of the time to capture the essence of what it was like to be a football fan and player in the late 1970s. This team lived the cliché. They caught the bus to home matches with fans and drank with them afterwards. Garry Birtles recalls travelling by train to Norwich with fans and knowing they had to win because they would be sat with them all the way home.

"The relationship between that team and the city is almost unique. Of course, Manchester United fans have the Busby Babes and Celtic fans love the Lisbon Lions. But you see Tony Woodcock, Viv Anderson and Trevor Francis walk through

"Clough brought aspiration. One fan went from away games in Grimsby to the Nou Camp in three years"



Nottingham on a Sunday morning – by the end it is like Beatlemania. Kenny Burns and John McGovern couldn't be more different – one was the captain with sensible hair, one the naughty boy. Then you had John Robertson, who produced the magic that wins European Cups.

"I'd always admired Clough but I found a much grander man than I expected. Nottingham had a tough time in the miners' strike and Clough was the only manager who allowed striking miners into his ground for nothing. And he fed them. He was political, he cared, he went on marches. Frank Clark remembers Clough telling the team, 'I expect you will all be voting Labour at the election'.

"A huge moment for *I Believe In Miracles* was deciding the soundtrack. I considered going New Wave or Punk but when we played disco over images of muddy pitches and fans drinking Bovril, we just laughed. This glamorous music seemed to fit perfectly. Disco was very aspirational. And that fits with the aspiration Clough brought to the city. I spoke to a fan who went from going to away games in Grimsby to the Nou Camp within three years. He didn't have a passport before. They changed lives and that city in a wonderful way. That is how important football can be."

I Believe In Miracles is out on DVD. ibelieveinmiraclesfilm.com

LUCY SWEET

Forget board games. TV is what British family life is all about

I was goggling at **Gogglebox** the other night and thought – what a wonderful thing it is to watch TV with other people. TV gets a bad rap, equated with time-wasting and loneliness, but it can actually be one of the most life-affirming things ever – much more fun than going to a boring dinner party and talking about house prices with a bunch of tedious farts.

Some of my most vivid memories involve whingeing at the telly with my family, criticising Esther Rantzen's teeth or groaning at Terry Wogan. I remember my mum drying my hair while we watched *The Onedin Line* on a Sunday, and crying because she laughed too loudly at *The Generation Game*. When I was a teenager, I'd come home from school and we'd watch Bette Davis and Barbara Stanwyck films on BBC Two, a picture of cosiness. And I still remember the rigid horror when I watched *The Singing Detective* with my family, and everyone pretended they couldn't see Patrick Malahide's buttocks pumping madly away in a forest.

So when I see *Gogglebox*, it makes my heart glad. The detail gets me – knackered DFS sofas, mugs of tea, a single Digestive on a plate. Warm light through windows on a dark street, fat Rottweilers basking on the rug. There's Geordie Scarlett with her massive slippahs, and the wonderful true love between Leon and June, which involves her rationing

of his Jacob's cracker intake. There's Jenny and Lee, who appear to live in a caravan in Hull and are happy. Even that annoying woman with the knitting and the screechy one who looks like Minnie Driver bring me joy because they look so damn comfortable. By now, you'd think you'd be sick of these random people, pontificating about programmes we've not got round to seeing. But it's an enduring format because families watching TV together is what life in Britain is all about. Is there anyone in the world who doesn't love the Siddiquis, those three big lads all huddled together on that tiny sofa? They should have their own internet channel, SiddiquiTV, so you can just see them in the bottom corner of your computer screen as you work. It'd be an instant stress buster.

The Danish concept of 'hygge' is in the news. It's a word that suggests cosiness, togetherness and contentment – big socks and jumpers with reindeers. While Scandinavia has log cabins, tealights, roaring fires and sheepskin rugs sewn up, telly is the British version of hygge. Even if there's nothing good on, that's no reason not to gather around the glowing rectangle and be critical of Simon Cowell's facelift. Forget bracing walks and board games – staring at the telly in a slightly-too-warm room is what family life is all about.

@lucytweet1



GET THE PICTURE

Damon Albarn has suggested a new Gorillaz album could happen next year. As a stopgap, his visual partner in the animated group is having his first exhibition. **The Suggestionists** (November 18–December 2, Chelsea, London; jamiehewlett.com) is a conceptual triptych for Jamie Hewlett's new work (main image), with pieces fitting into different categories – line drawings, grindhouse-style cinema posters and 'tarotica' (based around tarot cards).

While Hewlett's work is satirical and mischievous, a more sombre offering can be found at **Jean-Etienne Liotard** (until January 31, Piccadilly, London; royalacademy.org.uk). Some 70 pieces by the

Swiss portraitist, who was active in the white heat of the European Enlightenment, are on display. They cover his travels in Paris, Vienna, Geneva, Constantinople and London where his subjects included nobility and royalty.

From portraits to writing, **Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire and Revolution** (November 20–March 28, Greenwich, London; rmg.co.uk) brings together 200 objects from international museums and private collections relating to Pepys. A beguiling insight into the life and work of this most celebrated of diarists.

Just over a month away, Christmas is unavoidable at this time of year so you can either lock the doors and ignore it as much as you can or grab it with both hands until it squeaks. If choosing the latter route, **Nottingham Winter Wonderland**



MUSIC

CLASSICAL / DAVID FAY

New kids on the Baroque



(November 20–December 24, Nottingham; nottinghamwinterwonderland.co.uk) is as good a place as any to start. There's a festival market and an ice skating rink – plus glühwein (arguably the only real positive during a drop in temperature).

A slightly different take on the season can be found at **Christmas Artists Open Houses** (November 21 & 22; 28 & 29; December 5 & 6; 12 & 13, Brighton; aoh.org.uk) where local artists open their homes and studios to the public, showing and selling their work, which includes jewellery, ceramics and textiles, paintings, sculpture, printmaking and photography.

Staying in the same city, **MADE Brighton** (November 19–22, Brighton; brighton-made.co.uk) is marking its 10th anniversary and offers local and national designers/

artisans the chance to display and sell their creations. If structured right, you could nail down the lion's share of your Christmas shopping in one outing.

Finally, **Bjewelled Treasures: The Al Thani Collection**



(November 21–March 28, South Kensington, London; vam.ac.uk) focuses on the evolution of Indian jewellery, particularly how it changed in the last century and influenced European jewellery houses like Cartier. Highlights include a rare finial from the throne of Tipu Sultan.

Eamonn Forde

Opera has a reputation for purveying sensational music via ridiculous plots. The most delicious of melodies and luscious of harmonies often are the musical expression of innocuous words, stemming from banal or absurd situations onstage. Usually in Britain, our ignorance of Italian, French or German allows us to overlook this, to escape the realisation that the soprano's soaring aria is actually about her missing hat, her pet hamster or, perhaps, her yearning for her true love (whom she's only met once, and may or may not be her brother).

Handel's *Acis and Galatea* is the quintessential silly opera in this regard. Its archetypal plot is laughable: shepherd and nymph are in love; hideous monster loves nymph too; battle ensues between shepherd and monster; shepherd is crushed by a rock; nymph turns dead shepherd into a fountain. Its words, in English, are equally simplistic: "happy, happy we" is a representative sample. Yet it is, provided it is performed in the right spirit, entertaining, charming and musically magnificent.

I recently saw a performance of this eccentric little opera, given by Baroque specialists La Nuova Musica and a cast of young soloists at St John's Smith Square in London. It was a jovial affair, with the ensemble relishing the vibrancy of Handel's contrapuntal writing from the opening Sinfonia – taken at an exhilaratingly breakneck speed – onwards. La Nuova Musica's founder and director David Peter Bates is obviously a Handel enthusiast, and his exuberance rubbed off on the musicians and the audience, although some of his more extravagant gestures from the harpsichord seemed more for the benefit of the latter than the former.

Not everything began according to plan, however; soprano Katherine Manley had to be replaced on the day because of illness, with Augusta Hebbert stepping into the breach to sing Galatea. This she did spectacularly, not only negotiating Handel's



La Nuova Musica et al perform at St John's Smith Square

complicated melismatic writing with easy élan but bringing an actor's expressivity to the part – now coquettish, now distraught – which was unmatched by her male counterparts. This piece must be performed with a twinkle in the eye and this didn't come naturally to the men. There was a certain amount of straining – vocal and dramatic – in Ed Lyon's *Acis* and Rupert Charlesworth's *Damon*. Hebbert was drowned out in the choruses; in fact, the balance was too loud throughout, except for the exquisitely hushed ending.

There was a further noteworthy element to this performance: it was 'scented'. Perfumist Sarah McCartney suffused the Baroque former church with two separate smells, each designed for an act of the opera. They were pleasant enough but disappointingly didn't add a great deal to the experience. Then again, this opera is always going to be about the music.



Medicine for the soul: 'lost' opera *L'Ospedale*

LAST NOTE...

Staying with Baroque opera, an intriguing project is taking place at London's Wilton Music Hall until November 21: **L'Ospedale** (*The Hospital*). This production by Solomon's Knot of a recently rediscovered anonymous opera is set in a post-apocalyptic NHS hospital and, fortunately for everyone, it's not scented.

@themerelistener

**They are still eating dogs
in the Philippines.
It's illegal, but it is still happening.**

With your help, it can be stopped.

These horror pictures are of dogs which have been brutally and savagely mistreated by dog meat traders, who only look upon these animals as a means to make easy money. The photos were taken in the Philippines on actual police raids, instigated by AKF investigators.



Your donations will help pay the expenses needed to conduct more raids and save more dogs from this evil wicked abuse. Please make a generous donation today to AKF. No other organisation is working to stop this in the Philippines.

The mother of Lucky was pregnant when AKF rescued her from the dog meat trade; Lucky was born in the AKF Rescue Centre. Lucky him - he's safe now. The Animal Kingdom Foundation (**AKF**) rescued him before he was killed, skinned, butchered and cooked for human consumption.

Other dogs are not so lucky. Hundreds continue to be traded in the Philippines every year. Illegally. The numbers were in the thousands until **AKF** took on the armed traders. But the fight is not finished.

Words are not needed to describe these pictures - they speak for themselves.

AKF is the only charity campaigning against the bloody trade. It needs your support to continue the fight. And to feed and eventually to home some two hundred rescued dogs from its kennels near Manila.

Filipino dogs need your help - please help us to help them.



I want **AKF** to continue to challenge the illegal dog trade in the Philippines. Please use my gift to publicize these atrocities and to work on the ground in the Philippines.

I enclose £5 £10 £15 £30 £50 Other £ _____

Please make your cheque/PO payable to: **Animal Kingdom Foundation**
or if you prefer, donate via our website: www.animalkingdomfoundation.org

Your Name(s) and Address: *(please print)*

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____



Registered Charity No: 1161885

ANIMAL KINGDOM FOUNDATION (UK)
www.animalkingdomfoundation.org

Dalton House, 60 Windsor Avenue
London, SW19 2RR

Enquiries: 01732 700 900

To advertise: Jenny Bryan / jennifer_bryan@dennis.co.uk



in Partnership with  UNIVERSITY of DERBY

DEVELOP YOUR EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Post Graduate Certificate in Emotional Education (PGCEE)

A unique qualification in the area of Emotional Intelligence. Designed for anyone wishing to improve their personal life, broaden or change their career, gain employment or develop their ability to lead and facilitate groups.

Develop insight and skills to encourage the emotional growth and wellbeing of others and of yourself by combining personal development with academic learning.

A part-time residential course in the heart of the beautiful Derbyshire Dales over 9 weekends from January 2016 to August 2016. Leading to a recognised University Qualification, the PGCEE. Forms Stage one of a Masters in Education/ Emotional Education. Accredited by the University of Derby.

Open to non-graduates

Places are limited: Enrolling NOW
 Call: 01335 370494 • Email: info@atlowmill.org • Website: www.atlowmill.org 

pewterhooter designer jewellery

925 Silver stud earrings.
 Made with Caribbean blue opal Swarovski crystal.
 The earrings measure 6mm x 6mm.
 Gift box.

only **£6.99**
 plus shipping



Available from amazon.co.uk
 item B00E1C93LK

Peter's Railway The Great Train Robbery



ISBN 978-1-9088970-53

Latest Book - Out Now !

Peter, Harry and Kitty foil a terrible crime and catch the villains. Their methods are brave and unconventional, causing much damage and enjoyable mayhem... just £4.99

This is the 16th book in the Peter's Railway series, following Peter and Grandpa's adventures building a railway across the farm.

Books for children who love trains and engineering

			
Story	Technical	History	Adventure

For personally signed/dedicated copies & more info:
www.PetersRailway.com
 or buy from bookshops, steam railway gift-shops or amazon.co.uk

An inspiring gift...

A subscription to **AQUILA Magazine** makes an excellent present for lively children of 8 – 12 years.

This exuberant and inspiring publication is designed to capture young readers' interest in **Science, Arts and General Knowledge**. Tackling serious educational topics with humour and intelligence, **AQUILA** encourages children to think and ask questions about the world; it also includes articles on philosophy and well-being that will foster a balanced take on life.

Beautifully illustrated with photographs and diagrams throughout, **AQUILA** might even entice children away from their latest gadgets and computer games!

- ✓ Exciting new topic every month
- ✓ Nourishes bright young minds
- ✓ Quality reading and writing



AQUILA for Christmas

We can post the December issue with your gift message to arrive in time for Xmas. The festive package is stamped 'Open on 25th December', and posts from early December.



See sample online

... a year's worth of exciting reading!

aquila.co.uk Tel: 01323 431313

To advertise: Jenny Bryan / jennifer_bryan@dennis.co.uk

The Psychiatry Research Trust



Mental illness and brain disorders affect everyone. **One in four** of us directly

Here at **The Psychiatry Research Trust** our sole aim is to raise funds for mental health and brain disease research being carried out at the internationally renowned Institute of Psychiatry (KCL), Bethlem and Maudsley hospitals. We aim to support research by young scientists in a wide range of mental health topics, including Alzheimer's and Motor Neurone Disease, Eating Disorders, Psychotic Illness, Addictions and Childhood Problems

Our target is not just to find better treatments for sufferers but also to understand the underlying causes of mental illness and brain disease with the goal of finding means of preventions and cures for these illnesses.

The Psychiatry Research Trust

PO 87, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF
 Tel: 0207 703 6217 Email: psychiatry_research_trust@kcl.ac.uk
 Web: www.psychiatryresearchtrust.co.uk
 Donate on line at www.justgiving.com/psychiatryresearchtrust
 Registered Charity Number 284286

THE FUTURE IS HOVERING

Pre-order now from £199.00*

hoverboardcompare.com

Hoverboards are electrically-powered vehicles and must be used with care and supervision. Suitable safety protection such as helmets, gloves and pads should be worn when using hoverboards, and younger or inexperienced users must be supervised at all times. Hoverboards are for use on private land or allocated areas and must not be used on public roads or byways. *Check supplier website for safety instructions, purchase details and latest prices before purchase as these are subject to change. Hoverboard Compare UK directs customers to UK hoverboard suppliers and does not supply products or accept credit card payments itself. Hoverboard Compare UK does not accept responsibility for faulty products or personal injury resulting from product sales initiated by the service it provides.



Austrian Alps • Italian Dolomites • Picos de Europa • Pyrenees • Andalucía

Andalucía - Spring & Autumn Walking

explore this ancient landscape of olive groves and vineyards

- 7 Nights - April/May & Oct/Nov
- Choice of two organised walks each day
- Relax in our delightful Posada in a traditional mountain village
- Superb evening meals - with wine included
- Airport transfers & all transport to walks included
- From £585 per person



Visit our website or request our beautiful brochure...

01799 513331 colletts.co.uk/andalucia



Czech Music Direct

NOCZ Quartet—Where Norwegian and Czech sounds converge

Hevhetia HV 0071-2-331 and download

NOCZ Quartet-Live in London
 Thursday 22 October 8pm
 The Spice of Life, 6 Moor Street, W1D 5NA

www.czecheverything.co.uk

cmd@czecheverything.co.uk
 Tel: +44 020 8346 0088

To advertise: Jenny Bryan / jennifer_bryan@dennis.co.uk



Demuths Cookery School Course Vouchers

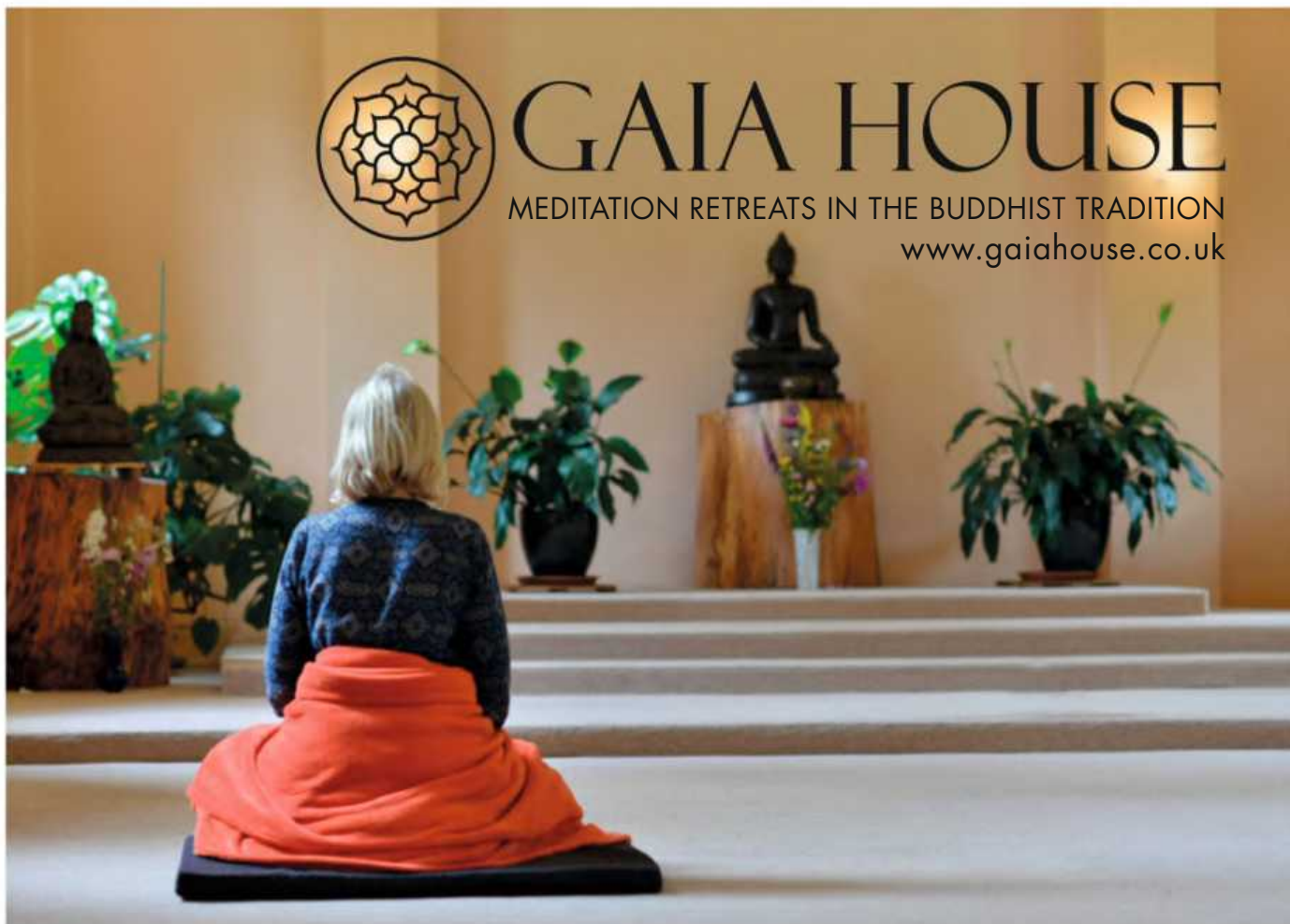
A deliciously different Christmas gift idea.
Visit our website for more details.



demuths.co.uk us@demuths.co.uk 01225 427 938 6 Terrace Walk, BA1 1LN



Order at www.redmolotov.com
Over 1800 original t-shirt designs
Men's, women's and kids', up to 5XL



GAIA HOUSE

MEDITATION RETREATS IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITION

www.gaiahouse.co.uk

To advertise: Jenny Bryan / jennifer_bryan@dennis.co.uk



Nowhere to rent?

And what's left being sold off to speculators. Britain needs more council houses. Our Community Share is starting to provide them (see above). Get a decent return and know you're doing the right thing.

Abolish Empty Office Buildings
 3 Windsor Terrace, Bristol BS8 4LW
 Web: AEOBhousepeople.org.uk
 Twitter: [AEOBpeople](https://twitter.com/AEOBpeople)
www.facebook.com/AEOBhousepeople

KNIGHTS DRAWING IN?

SAVE UP TO £143!

If errors like these jump out at you while reading, proofreading and editing could be the right career, working full- or part-time.

- Earn up to £24 an hour working at home
- Distance-learning or face-to-face seminar options
- Advice given on self-employment and getting work

Don't delay - offer ends 30th November 2015

0800 328 8396

enquiries@chapterhousepublishing.com
www.chapterhousepublishing.com



Join our call for Safer Medicines
 by replacing animal tests with superior tests using human tissues

 Sign our petition at www.SaferMedicines.org

Looking for love? You're preaching to the choir —

Join the Friends1st off-line Christian dating community, where everyone is singing from the same hymn sheet.



Call: **0208 088 1910**

UNFAIR DISMISSAL ...
 DISCRIMINATION
 REDUNDANCY.....
 EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS
 OWED WAGES...
 CONTRACT DISPUTES

Pinnacle PARTNERSHIP

FOR SPECIALIST ADVICE ON ALL YOUR EMPLOYMENT LAW DISPUTES
 For companies & individual clients alike
 NO WIN NO FEE AVAILABLE
 Assistance with Tribunal Fees and Fee Remission

CALL 0330 323 0435 for a free initial consultation

www.pinnaclepartnership.co.uk

THE PINNACLE PARTNERSHIP IS REGULATED BY THE CLAIMS MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF REGULATED CLAIMS MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

AN URGENT APPEAL for the strays in Sri Lanka

There are 1000's of suffering strays living and dying on the streets of Sri Lanka. Many are malnourished, weakened through disease and have horrific injuries. Animal SOS Sri Lanka is a small UK Registered Charity working to alleviate the widespread suffering of stray animals by providing lifesaving veterinary care, refuge, rehabilitation and homing schemes. We also conduct weekly neutering/rabies control programs and promote animal welfare. We are currently caring for over 600 rescued strays, all nursed back to health, at our beautiful sanctuary in southern Sri Lanka. We desperately need YOUR help to continue this lifesaving work.



UK Registered Charity 1119902

www.animalsos-sl.com

PLEASE HELP THESE ANIMALS IN DIRE NEED BY DONATING TODAY

There is no greater gift

Please LIKE us on 

I enclose £100 £50 £25 Other £

Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

Address.....

Email.....

Give more at no extra cost to you:

GIFT AID. I would like Animal SOS Sri Lanka to reclaim tax on this & all future donations until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer & that I pay as much income or capital gains as Animal SOS Sri Lanka will reclaim in the tax year (currently 25p in every £1 donated.)

Signature..... Date.....

Please make cheques payable to: Animal SOS Sri Lanka. Post to: 12 Cheyne Avenue, South Woodford, London E18 2DR
 Or make a secure donation online www.animalsos-sl.com {E} info@animalsos-sl.com {T} 07773 746108 *thank you!*

To advertise: Brad Beaver / bradley_beaver@dennis.co.uk

WORK FOR THE BIG ISSUE COMPANY! Mobile Sales & Outreach Worker Vacancy

Field based in Kent & Essex region with some office based working

We are seeking an enthusiastic and capable individual to work within one of the most innovative and successful self-help initiatives for the homeless. Using a company vehicle, you will be responsible for encouraging and maximising sales by distributing magazines to Big Issue vendors within the Kent and Essex region.

You will be developing new and existing sales opportunities for vendors, whilst building and maintaining good relationships with external bodies, such as the Police, Councils, Local Media and City Centre Managers

It is essential for applicants to have a full UK Driving License, experience in sales and cash-handling and the ability to keep accurate and detailed records. You will also need to be able to work using your own initiative, have excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to work effectively under pressure.

The Big Issue offers excellent employee benefits including a competitive salary, a generous holiday entitlement, enhanced sick pay, childcare vouchers, life cover and a healthcare scheme. Apply today!

Kent & Essex – Full Time

To find out more, please go to **'Work for us'** on our website at www.bigissue.com or apply directly by e-mail at personnel@bigissue.com.



WORK FOR THE BIG ISSUE COMPANY! Sales & Outreach Worker Vacancy

**Are you tired of sitting in the office?
Would you like to give something back to society?
Do you want to challenge people's perceptions?**

If yes, then we have an exciting full-time opportunity based in Vauxhall directly supporting our Vendors and we want to hear from you!

Working as a Sales & Outreach Worker you will support Vendors between the office and London's city streets. You will encourage our Vendors to maximise their sales as well as offering guidance on local services available to them in order to improve their lives. You will be a fantastic communicator and have the motivation to manage your own workload.

The Big Issue offers excellent employee benefits including a competitive salary, a generous holiday entitlement, enhanced sick pay, childcare vouchers, life cover and a healthcare scheme. Apply today!

Vauxhall, London – Full Time

To find out more, please go to **'Work for us'** on our website at www.bigissue.com or apply directly by e-mail at personnel@bigissue.com.



WORK FOR THE BIG ISSUE! Head of Partnerships & Philanthropy Vacancy

Do you have a flair for building relationships and a passion for changing lives?

The Big Issue Foundation is looking for a Head of Partnerships & Philanthropy to join their small and dynamic team to raise income, in line with an annually forecasted and agreed income target, from a portfolio of existing major donors and mid-level givers.

We are looking for someone who has substantial experience of major gift and corporate partnership fundraising and a proven track record of building, developing and managing relationships at the highest level. You will need experience of running successful fundraising events and managing successful fundraising campaigns. In addition to this, you will have had significant experience of managing a major donor programmer and knowledge and experience of fundraising databases.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of achieving income against agreed financial targets and be adept at utilising research sources and methods to identify prospective donors. If you have strong communication and networking skills and are committed to the aims, objectives and values of The Big Issue Foundation – please apply!

The Big Issue offers excellent employee benefits including a competitive salary, a generous holiday entitlement, enhanced sick pay, childcare vouchers, life cover and a healthcare scheme. Apply today!

Vauxhall, London – Full Time

To find out more, please go to **'Work for us'** on our website at www.bigissue.com or apply directly by e-mail at personnel@bigissue.com.





FOUNDERS

John Bird and Gordon Roddick

Group executive chairman
Nigel Kershaw

Group chief executive
Adrian Willard

EDITORIAL

Editor Paul McNamee
Deputy editor Vicky Carroll
Senior reporter Adam Forrest
Features editor Steven MacKenzie
Social media editor Andrew Burns
Web content manager Theo Hooper
Books editor Jane Graham
Television editor Adrian Lobb
Film Edward Lawrenson
Music Malcolm Jack and David Fay
The Big Issue Boffin Dr Ben Ambridge
Office manager Robert White

PRODUCTION

Art director Scott Maclean
Designer Jim Ladbury
Production editor Ross McKinnon
Assistant production editor Rosanna Farrell
Production journalist Sarah Reid
Production co-ordinator Terry Cimini

ADVERTISING

020 7907 6633
Advertising director Andrea Mason
Advertising manager Esme Collins
Classified and Recruitment
020 7907 6635 Jenny Bryan & Brad Beaver
Marketing and communications director
Lara McCullagh

THE BIG ISSUE FOUNDATION

Chief executive
Stephen Robertson 020 7526 3458

Editorial

Second Floor, 43 Bath Street,
Glasgow, G2 1HW
0141 352 7260
editorial@bigissue.com

Distribution / London: 020 7526 3200

Printed at Polestar. Published weekly by
The Big Issue, 1-5 Wandsworth Road,
London SW8 2LN



PPA cover of the year



International
Network of
Street Papers



GAMES & PUZZLES

SPOT THE BALL



Photos: Action Images

To win a Bala Fairtrade-certified football, mark where you think the ball is, cut out and send to: Spot the Ball (1180), second floor, 43 Bath St, Glasgow, G2 1HW by November 24. Include name, address and phone number. To enter by email, send your grid position (eg A1) to competitions@bigissue.com. Issue 1178 winner is Allan Ledward from London. balasport.co.uk



(Last week's Spot the Ball revealed: Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur, 1992)

Brain Teaser

It's a lottery

Congratulations, you've just won a prize in a lottery. But this is an unusual lottery in that you have a choice: (a) £100 (b) 50 per cent chance to win £250, 50 per cent chance to win nothing.



(a) pay £150 (b) 50 per cent chance to have the fine written off, 50 per cent chance to have to pay £250.

Now you have to make the same decisions on behalf of a family member whose money you're managing while she is away on an extended vacation. What do you choose?

But, oh no, now you have to pay a fine. But again you have a choice:

Well, the first thing to notice is that, mathematically, the decision is the same in both cases. Do you take a gamble that has an equal chance of leaving you £150 better off and £100 worse off than you would have been had you gone for the sure thing? But when choosing for ourselves, the two choices feel very different emotionally. Consequently, most people go for the sure thing when faced with a gain (why risk losing the £100 by being greedy?) but the gamble when faced with an equivalent loss (if you've got to pay £150 anyway, why not gamble? You might get lucky!). But making the decision on behalf of someone else makes people more likely to gamble in the lottery version, and less likely to gamble in the fine version. This is because the emotions that affect our own decisions ("ooh I'd better not risk my lucky win" and "sod it, I've got to pay a fine anyway") don't hold much sway when making decisions on behalf of others. So, if you have a difficult decision to make, why not get somebody else to make it for you? Someone who has no emotional investment in the outcome is more likely to be able to make an objective decision. Check the science at: tinyurl.com/psy-q43

Discover new truths in our weekly test, based on Dr Ben Ambridge's book, *PSY-Q*, a series of interactive tests of your personality, intelligence, moral values, thinking style, impulsivity, skill at drawing, capacity for logical reasoning, musical taste, multi-tasking ability, susceptibility to illusions (both visual and mental) and preferences in a romantic partner. Courtesy of Profile Books



MY PITCH



Kelvin McCann, 29

“My Les Paul guitar was my pride and joy but it was either sell it or don't eat”

FACTS ABOUT ME...

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

Barry Island. It's lovely there. You have the commercial seaside town but if you walk along the coast to a place called Jackson's Bay, it's very quiet and relaxing.

HEAVY METAL

I love Pantera. I'm a big guitar guy and I love heavy metal. My favourite Pantera album would have to be *Cowboys from Hell* – it's great.

I went into rehab last September and finally got clear of drugs. Getting off a methadone script was hard for a few months – bloody horrendous actually – but it was a great thing to have done. Unfortunately, when I came out of rehab I had nowhere else to go but back to a hostel.

The hostel wasn't very nice at all. Chaotic, disorganised and riddled with drugs – not the best environment for me. But I was determined to keep moving forward. About four months ago I decided to give The Big Issue a try. Selling the magazine got me out of the hostel during the day and helped me get some focus and confidence.

Unfortunately, you do experience the rude side of people, the kind of people who think Big Issue sellers are

beneath them. But you also experience the flipside: people being friendly, caring and generous – generous with their time as much as anything.

So The Big Issue has been a lifeline. I get a bit of money and I really enjoy talking to people. Two months ago I got another boost when I moved into my own flat in the Grangetown area of Cardiff – a little one-bedroom housing association flat the Salvation Army helped me get.

It's taken some getting used to, I must admit. I've been in and out of institutions a lot of my life – rehab, hostels, prison – so adapting to living on your own is quite hard. But I'm getting there and The Big Issue guys have supported me.

I'm originally from London. I got myself into trouble there, so I came up to Wales with my girlfriend of the time. Although

we're no longer together, I've grown fond of Cardiff and it's home to me now. It's picturesque and everything's within walking distance. It's a friendly city too, compared to London, and I like places like Cardiff Castle and the Bay.

I feel like I'm getting back on my feet after a tough time. Ideally, I'd like to get myself a guitar again, if I can. Music was always my big passion and I love guitar music. I used to play in bands but unfortunately I had to sell my Les Paul when I became homeless. It was my pride and joy but at the time it was either sell it or don't eat.

So I'd like to get back to playing the guitar and keep working, and hopefully things will look even better in future.

Interview: Adam Forrest
Photo: Jake Morley

Write Your Way To A New Career!

Writers Bureau Celebrates Twenty-six Years of Helping New Writers

by Nick Daws

When distance-learning pioneer Ernest Metcalfe founded The Writers Bureau in the late 1980s, he can hardly have dared hope that twenty-six years on it would be acknowledged as Britain's leading writing school. Yet so it proved, with thousands of Writers Bureau students seeing their work in print for the first time. And, for many of those who persevered with their writing, the dream of becoming a successful writer has turned into reality.

Students such as Tim Skelton. An engineer by profession, he had always harboured an ambition to write, and at the age of 40 signed up with The Writers Bureau. The decision changed his life: "My writing career took off exponentially. I started appearing regularly in lifestyle and in-flight magazines. The following year I was commissioned by Bradt Travel Guides to write a guidebook to Luxembourg. I've appeared in The

"My writing career took off exponentially."

Times and The Independent, and updated guidebooks for Fodor's, Thomas Cook, and the AA."

Another student who benefited was Hazel McHaffie. Hazel wanted to make her academic work in Medical Ethics more accessible to people, and decided to write the themes into novels. Following her Writers Bureau course, Hazel has had five novels published, and appeared at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. She also has her own website at www.hazelmchaffie.com.

Sometimes studying with The Writers Bureau takes students down new and unexpected paths. Patricia Holness originally enrolled on The Writers Bureau's Writing for Children course. However, she soon realised that what she was learning applied to other types of writing as well.

She is now a full-time writer, regularly selling short stories for both

Hazel McHaffie



Tim Skelton

children and adults. She also has a monthly column in Devon Life.

These are just a selection from the inspirational true stories from students of The Writers Bureau. There's no reason why YOU couldn't be their next success story. With a 15-day free trial and money-back guarantee, there is nothing to lose and potentially a whole new career to gain! So why not visit their website at www.writersbureau.com or call on Freephone 0800 856 2008 for more information?

Why Not Be A Writer!

As a freelance writer, you can earn very good money in your spare time, writing the stories, articles, books, scripts etc that editors and publishers want. Millions of pounds are paid annually in fees and royalties. Earning your share can be fun, profitable and creatively most fulfilling.

To help you become a successful writer we offer you a first-class, home-study course from professional writers with individual guidance from expert tutors and flexible tuition tailored to your own requirements. You are shown how to make the most of your abilities, where to find ideas, how to turn them into publishable writing and how to sell them. In short, we show you exactly how to become a published writer. **If you want writing success – this is the way to start!**

Whatever your writing ambitions, we can help you to achieve them. For we give you an

COURSE FEATURES

- 27 FACT-PACKED MODULES
- 2 SPECIALIST SUPPLEMENTS
- 20 WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS
- ADVISORY SERVICE
- TUTORIAL SUPPORT

effective, stimulating and most enjoyable creative writing course... appreciated by students and acclaimed by experts.

It's ideal for beginners. No previous experience or special background is required. You write and study at your own pace – you do not have to rush. **Many others have been successful this way.** If they can do it – why can't you?

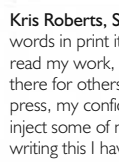
We are so confident that we can help you become a published writer that we give you a **full refund guarantee**. If you have not earned your course fees from published writing by the time you finish the course, we will refund them in full.

If you want to be a writer start by requesting a free copy of our prospectus 'Write and be Published'. Please call our freephone number or visit our website NOW!

- FLEXIBLE STUDY PROGRAMME
- STUDENT COMMUNITY AREA
- HOW TO PRESENT YOUR WORK
- HOW TO SELL YOUR WRITING
- 15 DAY TRIAL PERIOD
- FULL REFUND GUARANTEE



Hannah Evans, Winchester "I've been published in The Guardian and Good Life earning £400. And now I've got my first book published by Bloomsbury called MOB Rule: Lessons Learned by a Mother of Boys. The Writers Bureau course provided me with structure, stopped my procrastination but most importantly it provided the impetus to try something different."



Kris Roberts, Somerset "When I first saw my words in print it was life changing. Someone else had read my work, believed in it, paid for it, and put it out there for others to see. As more articles made it to press, my confidence grew and I found I wanted to inject some of myself into my writing. At the time of writing this I have received £1,197 for my work."



Jane Isaac, Northamptonshire "When I started the Writers Bureau course, I wanted to explore avenues for my writing and develop and strengthen my personal style. I had no idea that it would lead to me being a published writer of novels and short stories. I still pinch myself when I receive emails and messages from readers who've enjoyed my work or when I give talks to book clubs and visit bookstores to do signings. These are magical moments that have changed my life – my dream has come true."

YES! Please send me free details on how to become a successful, freelance writer.

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

EMAIL

Freepost RSSK-JZAC-JCJG
The Writers Bureau
Dept SZ1611
Manchester, M3 1LE



www.facebook.com/writersbureau

www.twitter.com/writersbureau

email: 15W1@writersbureau.com

Please include your name and address

Members of BILD and ABCC

Get Your **FREE PROSPECTUS** Today!

0800 856 2008

FREEPHONE 24 HOURS Quote: SZ1611

www.writersbureau.com

Warren Evans

WINTER SALE

up to
50% OFF



'SLATTED' ~~£510~~
DOUBLE BED **£375**

EST. 1978. Warren Evans provides his quality, handmade beds and mattresses delivered direct from his London workshop to your home. No fuss, no middlemen, just quality service and value.

Our 'Meadow' 2000 Pocket Sprung mattress	Double £565 £445	King £700 £545	Super King £825 £645
---	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

★★★★★ mattress quality ★★★★★ value ★★★★★ mattress range

Which? members survey June (2015)



Warren Evans
13 stores | warrenevans.com | 020 7693 8988